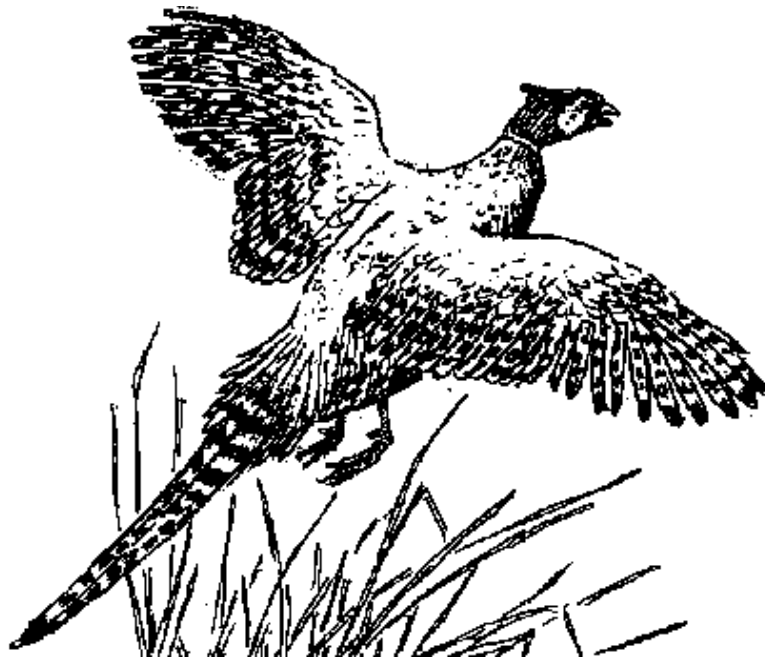


South Dakota
Bird Hunter Survey – 2008
Focus on Pheasants, Ducks & Geese

HD-7-09.AMS

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Executive Summary

South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey – 2008

Focus on Pheasants, Ducks & Geese

HD-7-09.AMS

Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

This survey is part of a study involving two separate surveys designed to evaluate the problem of declining waterfowl hunters in South Dakota and the potential to reverse the trend. This survey was sent to a sample of resident, adult hunters who purchased either a 2008 Resident Small Game License or a Combination License but NOT the 2008 Migratory Bird Certification, which is a requirement for residents to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota. This sample is referred to as the bird hunter sample. The other survey was sent to small game hunters (purchased a Small Game License or Combination License) who had purchased a 2008 Migratory Bird Certification (referred to as the waterfowl hunter sample).

The bird hunter survey report evaluates the potential to attract bird hunters to participate in waterfowl hunting by exploring the concept of lapsed hunters. For this study lapsed hunters were defined as individuals who have hunted in the past but do not participate in hunting every year (measured by hunting frequency for the past five years). To address the issue of declining hunter numbers it is assumed that it may be easier to attract a lapsed hunter back into the sport than getting someone who have never hunted started in the sport. This study of lapsed hunters tries to identify the major reasons for not consistently hunting every year with the hope that an agency may be able to address some of the constraints on hunting participation faced by lapsed hunters.

Resident Pheasant Hunters. Based on a definition of hunting the past five years by hunters with six or more years of pheasant hunting experience, about one-fourth of the 2008 pheasant hunters were classified as lapsed pheasant hunters. The main reasons for not hunting all five years were being too busy, work obligations, not having a good place to go pheasant hunting, and family obligations.

A good summary indicator variable of recreational participation was a simple 5-point measure of the importance of that activity to the individual. The importance of pheasant hunting was strongly related to annual and daily participation in pheasant hunting.

Importance of pheasant hunting was also related to participation in waterfowl hunting—pheasant hunting was rated higher in importance by hunters that also hunted waterfowl than pheasant hunters that never hunted waterfowl. Interest and participation in waterfowl hunting appears to be an extension of overall interest and involvement in hunting in general.

Resident Duck Hunters. About 46% of adult hunters licensed to hunt small game have never hunted ducks, 51% have hunted ducks in the past and 3% reported hunting ducks in 2008. Since this sample of hunters was drawn from hunters without a Migratory Bird Certification, which is also a resident South Dakota license needed to hunt waterfowl, the few hunters hunting ducks in this sample are not properly licensed.

Licensed Small Game Hunters that Have Never Hunted Ducks: Opinions about Duck Hunting. On the positive side, almost half (47%) of the resident small game hunters that have never hunted ducks think that they would enjoy duck hunting and most have not formed a negative opinion about duck hunting. However, few of these hunters think it likely that they will hunt ducks in the future (2% definitely and 9% probably); about 30% were not sure and most felt that they would not duck hunt in the future (30% probably not, 21% definitely not). Also, interest in attending a free, 1-day workshop to learn about duck hunting was relatively low with 50% not interested, 22% slightly interested, 12% moderately interested, and only 7% very interested and another 9% had no opinion.

Past and Current Duck Hunters: Duck Hunting Activity. On the positive side, most of the past (51%) and current (85%) duck hunters reported that they enjoy duck hunting, however, many felt it was difficult to find places to hunt ducks and about one-third felt regulations were too complex and duck hunting too expensive, with about one-fourth rating duck hunting as difficult. Only 28% of the past duck hunters plan to hunt ducks in the future compared to 83% of the current duck hunters. Also, interest in a free, one-day duck hunting workshop was relatively low (only 6% of past duck hunters and 17% of current duck hunters were very interested).

Resident Goose Hunters. About 50% of adult hunters licensed to hunt small game have never hunted geese, 47% have hunted geese in the past and 3.5% reported hunting geese in 2008. Since this sample of hunters was drawn from hunters without a Migratory Bird Certification, which is also a resident South Dakota license needed to hunt waterfowl, the few hunters hunting geese in this sample are not properly licensed.

Licensed Small Game Hunters that Have Never Hunted Geese: Opinions about Goose Hunting. On the positive side, almost half (49%) of the resident small game hunters that have never hunted geese think that they would enjoy goose hunting and most have not formed a negative opinion about goose hunting. However, few of these hunters think it likely that they will hunt geese in the future (2% definitely and 15% probably); about 32% were not sure and most felt that they would not goose hunt in the future (35% probably not, 16% definitely not).

Past and Current Goose Hunters: Goose Hunting Activity. About 43% of the past goose hunters said that goose hunting was not an important activity and 32% said it was only slightly important. Only 37% of the past goose hunters plan to hunt geese in the future compared to 85% of the current goose hunters.

Resident Waterfowl Hunters. Many waterfowl hunters tend to hunt both ducks and geese. About 43% of the adult, resident hunters licensed in 2008 to hunt small game in South Dakota had never hunted ducks or geese. About 53% of this sample have hunted waterfowl (ducks and/or geese) in the past, but not in the year sampled (2008), while 4.2% of this sample reported hunting waterfowl in 2008.

This survey also identified another possible issue—unlicensed waterfowl hunters. Probably some of the 4.2% of licensed small game hunters in this sample of hunters without a state waterfowl license (Migratory Bird Certification) mistakenly reported duck and/or goose hunting in 2008, but based on the profile of hunters in the group it is likely that many of them did indeed waterfowl hunt in 2008. If just 2.5% of the 2008 resident small game hunters participated in waterfowl hunting without the state waterfowl license that would amount to about 1,900 un-counted waterfowl hunters in GFP's projections. Since there were 17,751 projected resident waterfowl hunters in South Dakota for 2008, 1,900 un-counted waterfowl hunters would represent about an 11% increase.

While the numbers of potential waterfowl hunter participants discussed in this report are encouraging, they probably represent an unrealistic estimate of what can be achieved. An agency has little control over many of the more important constraints to waterfowl hunting participation listed by hunters. However, there are some things that an agency can do that will move waterfowl hunting participation in the right direction. Below is a short list of

some basic guidelines generated from this study for developing projects and programs designed to increase waterfowl hunting participation:

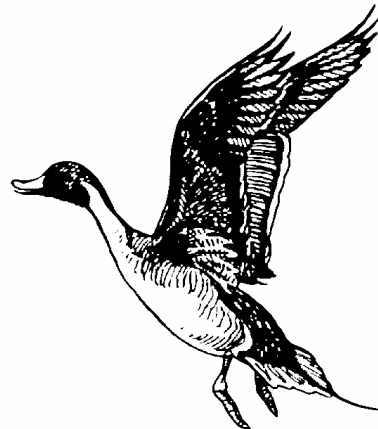
1. Increased information on places to waterfowl hunt.
2. Improve access to water (e.g., trails, roads, boat ramps) as well as buying/leasing wetlands suitable for waterfowl hunting.
3. Emphasize family hunting opportunities.
4. Offer free waterfowl hunting workshops.
5. Emphasize the “challenge” aspect of waterfowl hunting.
6. Increased reminders and information about waterfowl hunting opportunities in South Dakota (GFP has just started doing this via e-mail reminders and notices).
7. Focus efforts on highly involved pheasant hunters, especially hunting dog owners. Focus on past (lapsed) waterfowl hunters.
8. Use an adaptive management process for developing projects and programs, based on these basic guidelines, to address the issue of declining waterfowl hunter numbers.



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South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey – 2008

Focus on Pheasants, Ducks & Geese

**Game, Fish & Parks / Division of Wildlife
Agency Report
HD-7-09.AMS**

Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

This survey is part of a study involving two separate surveys designed to evaluate the problem of declining waterfowl hunters in South Dakota and the potential to reverse the trend. This survey was sent to a sample of resident, adult hunters who purchased either a 2008 Resident Small Game License or a Combination License but NOT the 2008 Migratory Bird Certification, which is a requirement for residents to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota. This sample is referred to as the bird hunter sample. The other survey was sent to resident, adult small game hunters (purchased a Small Game License or Combination License) who had purchased a 2008 Migratory Bird Certification (referred to as the waterfowl hunter sample).

The purpose of the waterfowl hunter survey (HD-6-09.AMS) was to describe the current adult, resident South Dakota hunters licensed to hunt waterfowl to evaluate the future of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota and factors that may contribute to a further decline in waterfowl hunting. The bird hunter survey report (HD-7-09.AMS) evaluates the potential to attract bird hunters to participate in waterfowl hunting by exploring the concept of lapsed hunters. For this study lapsed hunters were defined as individuals who have hunted in the past but do not participate in hunting every year (measured by hunting frequency for the past five years). To address the issue of declining hunter numbers it is assumed that it may be easier to attract a lapsed hunter back into the sport than getting someone who have never hunted started in the sport. This study of lapsed hunters tries to identify the major reasons for not consistently hunting every year with the hope that an agency may be able to address some of the constraints on hunting participation faced by lapsed hunters.

METHODS

Sample Selection and Survey Implementation. A total of 3,000 adult residents licensed to hunt small game but NOT waterfowl were randomly selected (1,400 Small Game License: ID# 1 – 1400; 1,600 Combination License: ID# 1401 – 3000). A short questionnaire was sent to all non-respondents to the long survey. The following chart shows the mailing schedule for this survey:

Mailing	Date
Survey Questionnaire	January 5, 2009
1 st Postcard Reminder	January 12, 2009
2 nd Survey Questionnaire	February 4, 2009
2 nd Postcard Reminder	February 17, 2009
Non-respondent Survey Questionnaire	March 19, 2009
Postcard Reminder	March 27, 2009

Questionnaire Design. The bird hunter survey question was a large booklet (8½ by 11) with 9 inside pages of questions with a tan cover mailed out in a large white envelope with a postage-paid business reply envelope included (Appendix A). The first half of the questionnaire is devoted to pheasant hunting. The purpose of this section is to determine if there is a specific type of pheasant hunter that is also interested in waterfowl hunting. These questions measure frequency of pheasant hunting and reasons for not pheasant hunting every year, importance of pheasant hunting, substitutes and motivations for pheasant hunting, followed by an evaluation of hunters' 2008 pheasant hunting season. The next section measures duck hunting participation and attitudes and perceptions of duck hunting followed by a section measuring goose hunting participation and attitudes and perceptions of goose hunting. The questionnaire ends with a few demographic variables: age, gender, county and type of residence, plus a space for optional comments.

The non-response survey was a 2-page questionnaire folded in thirds to fit a #10 window envelope (mailing address was attached to the questionnaire) and a #9 postage-paid business reply envelope included (Appendix A). The non-response survey consisted of three pheasant hunting questions, one duck hunting and one goose hunting participation question each, ending with three demographic questions.

RESULTS – SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

Return Rates. The Small Game License sample achieved a 65% return rate and the Combination License sample had a 69% return rate for a combined return rate of 67% (Appendix B – Table 1). The non-response survey achieved a return rate of 25% (21% for the Small Game License sample and 29% for the Combination License sample). This provided an overall return of 75% (72% for the Small Game License sample and 77% for the Combination License sample).

Evaluation of Non-response Bias. A total of 9 variables were evaluated for non-response bias (Table 1). Four (44%) significant differences were found between the regular survey and the non-response survey. Population estimates for made for each variable using the data from the non-response survey to adjust for non-response bias (Appendix B – Tables 3 – 10).

Table 1. Summary of variables tested for non-response bias in the 2008 South Dakota bird hunter survey.

Appendix B Table	Variable	Significant	p-value
2	Distribution of usable questionnaires by license type (reflects return rates)	NS	=0.688
3	Pheasant hunting experience (years)	Sign.	=0.003
4	Five year pheasant hunting history (2004-08)	Sign.	=0.041
5	Pheasant hunter: importance of pheasant hunting	Sign.	=0.008
6	Duck hunting participation	NS	=0.712
7	Goose hunting participation	NS	=0.508
8	Gender	NS	=0.355
9	Residence type	NS	=0.675
10	Age	Sign.	=0.003

Respondents to the full survey had more total years and more recent years (2004–2008) of pheasant hunting experience than did respondents to the short non-respondent survey (Appendix B – Tables 3 and 4). Respondents to the full survey also rated pheasant hunting higher in importance than did respondents to the short non-respondent survey (Appendix B – Table 5). Respondents to the full survey were older than respondents to the short non-respondent survey (Appendix B – Table 10).

RESULTS – PHEASANT HUNTING BY SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

Pheasant Hunting Participation and History. About 4% of the adult, resident licensed small game hunters have never hunted pheasants, about 64% had greater than ten years of pheasant hunting experience and 27% had greater than 30 years of pheasant hunting experience (Appendix B – Table 3). About 64% of the hunters with more than one year of pheasant hunting experience hunted pheasants all five of the past five years (2004–2008) (Appendix B – Table 4). About 72% of the hunters with six or more years of pheasant hunting experience hunted pheasants all five of the past five years (2004–2008), i.e., 28% were lapsed pheasant hunters as measured over the past five years (2004–2008) (Appendix B – Table 12).

Reasons for NOT Pheasant Hunting (2004–2008). About one-third of the pheasant hunters and one-quarter of pheasant hunters with six or more years of pheasant hunting experience did not hunt all five of the past five years (2004–2008) (Appendix B – Tables 4 and 12). The major reasons given by all pheasant hunters for not hunting all five years were too busy, work obligations, did not have a good place to go pheasant hunting, and family obligations (Appendix B – Table 13). A two-group cluster analysis of the reasons for not pheasant hunting revealed one major difference between the two groups (Appendix B – Table 14). One group's (Group 1 – 42%) major reason for not pheasant hunting all five years was because they were not living in South Dakota all five years. Since not living in South Dakota for the past five years was a distinguishing factor for a group of pheasant hunters for not pheasant hunting all five of the past five years, hunters with less than six years of pheasant hunting experience were removed and the reasons for not pheasant hunting were re-analyzed. The top four reasons for not pheasant hunting were still the same (too busy, work obligations, did not have a good place to go pheasant hunting, and family obligations) although there were slight changes in the order of importance for the remaining reasons.

Importance of and Substitutes for Pheasant Hunting. The 'importance of pheasant hunting' variable tends to be very diagnostic; measuring overall general commitment to the activity. About 9% of adult, resident pheasant hunters reported that pheasant hunting was their most important recreational activity with another 33% rating pheasant hunting as a very important activity (Appendix B – Table 5).

Importance of pheasant hunting was not related to resident license type but was significantly related to years of pheasant hunting for the past five years, total years of pheasant hunting experience and relative number of substitutes for pheasant hunting (Appendix B – Tables 17, 18 and 21). The more important that pheasant hunting was the more frequently pheasant hunters hunted during the past five years (Appendix B – Table 17). Importance of pheasant hunting increased with pheasant hunting experience (Appendix B – Table 18). Importance of pheasant hunting decreased with an increase in the number of substitutes hunters had for pheasant hunting (Appendix B – Table 21).

About 10% of the pheasant hunters reported that they had no substitutes for pheasant hunting and another 41% reported having only a few substitutes (Appendix B – Table 19). The relative number of substitutes for pheasant hunting decreased with hunters' increase in years of pheasant hunting experience (Appendix B – Table 20).

Motivations for Pheasant Hunting. The three highest rated motivations for liking pheasant hunting were social, nature and excitement (Appendix B – Tables 22-A – 22-G and 23). Most hunters (51%) selected social reasons as their main reason for liking pheasant hunting, followed by 20% selecting nature and 15% selecting excitement (Appendix B – Table 24). 'Meat' hunters hunted pheasant the fewest number of years during the past five years (2004–2008) and 'dog' hunters were the most consistent hunters during the past five years (Appendix B – Table 25). 'Solitude' hunters had the lowest importance rating for pheasant hunting and 'dog' hunters had the highest importance rating for pheasant hunting (Appendix B – Table 26).

Ratings for all seven motivations measured were significantly correlated with importance of pheasant hunting, i.e., as the importance of pheasant hunting increased so did the importance of all the possible motivations for pheasant hunting (Appendix B – Table 27). "Dog" hunters had the fewest number of substitutes for pheasant hunting and 'nature' hunters had the highest number of substitutes for pheasant hunting (Appendix B – Table 28).

2008 Pheasant Hunting Season. Adult, resident pheasant hunters hunted an average of 7.4 days (median = 5 days) and harvested an average of 11.5 pheasants (median = 7 pheasants) during the 2008 pheasant season (Appendix B – Table 29). Almost half (48%) of resident pheasant hunters do most of their pheasant hunting in the county where they live (Appendix B – Tables 30 and 31). Most resident pheasant hunters hunted on private land –

type of land hunted has been relatively similar over the past ten years of measurement (Appendix B – Table 32). About 31% of the resident pheasant hunters reported some degree of difficulty in finding places to pheasant hunt, which was similar to the level found in 2003 (Appendix B – Table 33). Over half of the resident pheasant hunters rated the number of birds as very abundant (15%) or abundant (37%), which was very similar to that measured in 2003 and slightly higher than the rating measured in 2000 (Appendix B – Table 34). About 74% of the adult, resident pheasant hunters were satisfied with the 2008 pheasant hunting season, which was slightly lower than the 2003 satisfaction level but higher than the satisfaction level measured in 2000 (Appendix B – Table 35).

RESULTS – DUCK HUNTING BY SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

About 46% of adult hunters licensed to hunt small game have never hunted ducks, 51% have hunted ducks in the past and about 3% reported hunting ducks in 2008 (Appendix B – Table 36). Since this sample of hunters was drawn from hunters without a current 2008 Migratory Bird Certification, which is also a resident South Dakota license needed to hunt waterfowl, the few hunters hunting ducks in this sample are not properly licensed. There are two possible explanations for 3% of this sample reporting duck hunting activity in 2008. Some hunters may have mistakenly reported hunting ducks in 2008 but actually did not hunt ducks or some hunters may have actually hunted ducks in 2008 but not realized that they also needed a current Migratory Bird Certification to hunt ducks in South Dakota. Some hunters purchasing the Combination License may mistakenly believe the license also includes the SD waterfowl license – 80% of the 3% that reported duck hunting in 2008 had purchased the Combination License.

Licensed Small Game Hunters that Have Never Hunted Ducks

Opinions about Duck Hunting. On the positive side, almost half (47%) of the resident small game hunters that have never hunted ducks think that they would enjoy duck hunting and most have not formed a negative opinion about duck hunting (Table 2 and Appendix B – Table 37-A – 37-G). However, few of these hunters think it likely that they will hunt ducks in the future (2% definitely and 9% probably); about 30% were not sure and most felt that they would not duck hunt in the future (30% probably not, 21% definitely not)

(Appendix B – Table 38). Also, interest in attending a free, 1-day workshop to learn about duck hunting was relatively low with 50% not interested, 22% slightly interested, 12% moderately interested, and only 7% very interested and another 9% had no opinion (Appendix B – Table 39).

Table 2. Summary of hunters' (that have never duck hunted) impressions/opinions of duck hunting in South Dakota.

Statement About Duck Hunting	Attitude Position – Non-Duck Hunters		
	Disagree	Neutral / No Opinion	Agree
I think that I would enjoy duck hunting.			
N = 734	14.9%	38.7%	46.5%
It is too difficult to find places to go duck hunting			
N = 731	18.1%	51.6%	30.4%
I think it would be too difficult to learn how to identify ducks in flight.			
N = 733	24.1%	46.1%	29.7%
I don't think that I would ever find the time to go duck hunting.			
N = 733	22.6%	51.2%	25.2%
Duck hunting regulations are too complex.			
N = 731	9.6%	70.2%	20.2%
Duck hunting is too expensive.			
N = 735	14.7%	68.2%	17.1%
Duck hunting sounds too difficult.			
N = 731	26.8%	60.6%	12.6%

Past and Current Duck Hunters

Duck Hunting Activity. Past and current duck hunters tended to be very different on many of the parameters measured in this survey; however, in this sample (due to the selection criteria) the group of current duck hunters is very small (2.8%). Current duck hunters had more overall years of duck hunting experience, hunted ducks more frequently during the past five years (2003–2007), were much more likely to hunt ducks in the future, rated duck hunting higher in importance, had higher interest in attending a free duck hunting working, and generally had more overall positive attitudes about duck hunting compared to past duck hunters (Appendix B – Tables 40 – 46). This information suggests that many of the current

duck hunters in this sample are very active duck hunters and most probably did hunt ducks in 2008.

Past duck hunters averaged 11 years of duck hunting compared to 20 years of duck hunting by current duck hunters (Appendix B – Table 40). Current duck hunters had about the same frequency of hunting during the past five years as did the waterfowl hunter sample¹ while most of the past duck hunters (69%) did not do any duck hunting during the past five years (2003–2007) (Appendix B – Table 41). About 14% of the past and 17% of the current duck hunters had hunted ducks in another state (other than South Dakota) (Appendix B – Table 42).

Current duck hunters rated duck hunting much higher in importance than did past duck hunters (Appendix B – Table 43). Most (56%) of the past duck hunters said that duck hunting was not an important activity and 28% said it was only slightly important. Although only a small group in this sample, the current duck hunters tended to have more positive attitudes towards duck hunting compared to the past duck hunters (Tables 3 and 4 and Appendix B – Tables 44-A – 44-E). On the positive side, most of the past (51%) and current (85%) duck hunters reported that they enjoy duck hunting, however, many felt it was difficult to find places to hunt ducks and about one-third felt regulations were too complex and too expensive, with about one-fourth rating duck hunting as difficult.

Only 28% of the past duck hunters plan to hunt ducks in the future compared to 83% of the current duck hunters (Appendix B – Table 45). This corresponds to the findings of the waterfowl hunter survey that about 30% of the ‘active’ duck hunters (duck hunters that intend to continue duck hunting) did not hunt every year. However, interest in a free, one-day duck hunting workshop was relatively low (only 6% of past duck hunters and 17% of current duck hunters were very interested) (Appendix B – Table 46).



¹ Gigliotti, L.M. 2009. South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey Report–2008. Report ID#: HD-6-09.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

Table 3. Summary of hunters' (past duck hunters) impressions/opinions of duck hunting in South Dakota.

Statement About Duck Hunting	Attitude Position – Past Duck Hunters		
	Disagree	Neutral / No Opinion	Agree
I enjoy duck hunting.			
N = 849	9.2%	40.2%	50.6%
It is difficult to find places to go duck hunting			
N = 847	25.3%	34.4%	40.4%
Duck hunting regulations are too complex.			
N = 844	17.7%	46.4%	35.9%
Duck hunting is too expensive.			
N = 846	18.6%	51.8%	29.7%
Duck hunting is difficult.			
N = 843	28.8%	45.1%	26.1%

Table 4. Summary of hunters' (current duck hunters) impressions/opinions of duck hunting in South Dakota.

Statement About Duck Hunting	Attitude Position – Current Duck Hunters		
	Disagree	Neutral / No Opinion	Agree
I enjoy duck hunting.			
N = 48	2.1%	12.5%	85.4%
It is difficult to find places to go duck hunting			
N = 48	37.5%	25.0%	37.5%
Duck hunting regulations are too complex.			
N = 48	12.5%	41.7%	45.8%
Duck hunting is too expensive.			
N = 48	18.8%	43.8%	37.5%
Duck hunting is difficult.			
N = 48	39.6%	39.6%	20.8%

RESULTS – GOOSE HUNTING BY SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

About 50% of adult hunters licensed to hunt small game have never hunted geese, 47% have hunted geese in the past and 3.5% reported hunting geese in 2008 (Appendix B – Table 47). Since this sample of hunters was drawn from hunters without a current 2008 Migratory Bird Certification, which is also a resident South Dakota license needed to hunt waterfowl, the few hunters hunting geese in this sample are not properly licensed. There are two possible explanations for 3.5% of this sample reporting goose hunting activity in 2008. Some hunters may have mistakenly reported hunting geese in 2008 but actually did not hunt geese or some hunters may have actually hunted geese in 2008 but not realized that they also needed a current Migratory Bird Certification to hunt geese in South Dakota. Some hunters purchasing the Combination License may mistakenly believe the license also includes the SD waterfowl license – 75% of the 3.5% that reported goose hunting in 2008 had purchased the Combination License.

Licensed Small Game Hunters that Have Never Hunted Geese

Opinions about Goose Hunting. On the positive side, almost half (49%) of the resident small game hunters that have never hunted geese think that they would enjoy goose hunting and most have not formed a negative opinion about goose hunting (Table 5 and Appendix B – Table 48-A – 48-D). However, few of these hunters think it likely that they will hunt geese in the future (2% definitely and 15% probably); about 32% were not sure and most felt that they would not goose hunt in the future (35% probably not, 16% definitely not) (Appendix B – Table 49).



Table 5. Summary of hunters' (that have never goose hunted) impressions/opinions of goose hunting in South Dakota.

Statement About Duck Hunting	Attitude Position – Non-Goose Hunters		
	Disagree	Neutral / No Opinion	Agree
I think that I would enjoy goose hunting.			
N = 776	9.9%	41.2%	48.8%
It is too difficult to find places to go goose hunting			
N = 775	15.9%	52.0%	32.1%
Goose hunting is too expensive.			
N = 777	14.8%	63.4%	21.8%
Goose hunting sounds too difficult.			
N = 776	29.0%	60.3%	10.7%

Past and Current Goose Hunters

Goose Hunting Activity. Past and current goose hunters tended to be very different on many of the parameters measured in this survey; however, in this sample (due to the selection criteria) the group of current goose hunters is very small (3.5%). Current goose hunters had more overall years of goose hunting experience, hunted geese more frequently during the past five years (2003–2007), were much more likely to hunt geese in the future, rated goose hunting higher in importance, and were different in goose hunting styles compared to past goose hunters (Appendix B – Tables 50 – 55). This information suggests that many of the current goose hunters in this sample are very active goose hunters and most probably did hunt geese in 2008.

Past goose hunters averaged 10 years of goose hunting compared to 16 years of goose hunting by current goose hunters (Appendix B – Table 50). Current goose hunters had about the same frequency of hunting during the past five years as did the waterfowl hunter sample² while most of the past goose hunters (61%) did not do any goose hunting during the past five years (2003–2007) (Appendix B – Table 51). About 12% of the past and 14% of the current goose hunters had hunted geese in another state (other than South Dakota) (Appendix B –

² Gigliotti, L.M. 2009. South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey Report–2008. Report ID#: HD-6-09.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

Table 52). Past goose hunters were more likely to hunt geese by pass shooting and incidental with other types of hunting compared to current goose hunters (Appendix B – Table 53).

Current goose hunters rated goose hunting much higher in importance than did past goose hunters (Appendix B – Table 54). About 43% of the past goose hunters said that goose hunting was not an important activity and 32% said it was only slightly important. Only 37% of the past goose hunters plan to hunt geese in the future compared to 85% of the current goose hunters (Appendix B – Table 55).

RESULTS – WATERFOWL HUNTING BY SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

There is some overlap in duck and goose hunting as many waterfowl hunters tend to hunt both ducks and geese. About 43% of the adult, resident hunters licensed in 2008 to hunt small game in South Dakota had never hunted ducks or geese (Appendix B – Table 56). About 53% of this sample have hunted waterfowl (ducks and/or geese) in the past, but not in the year sampled (2008), while 4.2% of this sample reported hunted waterfowl in 2008.

Demographic Description of Waterfowl Hunters. On average, past waterfowl hunters (49.6 years) were older than non-waterfowl hunters (43.5 years) and current waterfowl hunters (42.0 years) (Appendix B – Table 57). Female hunters were less likely to participate in waterfowl hunting (past or current) than male hunters (Appendix B – Table 57). Hunter type was not related to residence type (Appendix B – Table 57).

Pheasant Hunting Description of Waterfowl Hunters. Waterfowl hunters tended to be more involved in pheasant hunting than hunters that have not hunted waterfowl. Past and current waterfowl hunters had more years of pheasant hunting experience, rated the importance of pheasant hunting higher, rated most motivations for pheasant hunting higher in importance, were more involved with hunting with dogs, hunted more days of pheasant hunting in 2008 and were slightly more satisfied with their 2008 pheasant hunting season compared to non-waterfowl hunters (Appendix B – Tables 58 – 63).

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the potential to increase participation in waterfowl hunting, particularly duck hunting, by pheasant hunters. The survey began with a thorough description of pheasant hunters' pheasant hunting experiences and motivations to determine if there is a specific type of pheasant hunter that would be more inclined to take up waterfowl hunting. The survey started with a measure of years of pheasant hunting experience and recent annual frequency of pheasant hunting (past five years: 2004–2008). This second variable is a measure of lapsed pheasant hunters (individuals who have participated in pheasant hunting but do not participate every year).

The concept of lapsed participants is a relatively new topic of interest to wildlife agencies as the ability to detect, measure and study the concept developed due to advancements in data collection from license sales. Point-of-sale processes provided instantaneous collection of participant's information and the ability to track individuals' participation over time. It was a surprise to many to learn that a significant number of hunters and anglers did not participate in the sport every year. This information is important because wildlife agencies are funded via license sales and in some cases are facing declining participation. To address the issue of declining participation the assumption is it would be easier to attract lapsed participants back into the sport than attracting new participants.

Based on a definition of hunting the past five years by hunters with six or more years of pheasant hunting experience, about one-fourth of the 2008 pheasant hunters were classified as lapsed pheasant hunters. The top reasons given by lapsed pheasant hunters were similar to findings by other studies;³ namely being too busy for various reasons.

A good summary indicator variable of recreational participation was a simple 5-point measure of the importance to the individual. The importance of pheasant hunting was strongly related to annual and daily participation in pheasant hunting. Importance of pheasant hunting was also related to participation in waterfowl hunting—pheasant hunting was rated higher in importance by hunters that also hunted waterfowl than pheasant hunters that never hunted waterfowl. Interest and participation in waterfowl hunting appears to be an extension of overall interest and involvement in hunting in general.

³ Sutton, S.G., K. Dew, and J. Higgs. 2009. Why do people drop out of recreational fishing? A study of lapsed fishers from Queensland, Australia. *Fisheries*: 34(9):443–452.

The lapsed participant concept is especially interesting in relation to the purpose of this study—estimating the potential to recruit waterfowl hunters from the pheasant hunter population. About half of the 2008 pheasant hunters are lapsed duck and/or goose hunters. The potential to increase waterfowl hunting among pheasant hunters is much greater for lapsed waterfowl hunters than for pheasant hunters that have no previous waterfowl hunting experience (Table 6 and Figure 1). For example, if all the pheasant hunters that never duck hunted but indicated that they will definitely hunt ducks plus those who will probably duck hunt in the future did eventually participate in duck hunting the estimate would be 3,782 (*see Figure 1*). However, if all the pheasant hunters who were lapsed duck hunters who indicated that they will be duck hunting in the future the estimated number would be 10,905.

Table 6. Pheasant hunters' intentions to hunt ducks and geese in the future analyzed by hunter type (based on past waterfowl hunting participation).

Pheasant Hunters					
Will you hunt ducks in the future?					
Never Duck Hunted (46.5%)		Past Duck Hunters (50.7%)		Current Duck Hunters (2.8%)	
Definitely will	1.7%	Yes	28.3%	Yes	83.3%
Probably will	9.0%	Undecided	49.6%	Undecided	16.7%
Not Sure	29.5%	No	22.1%	No	0.0%
Probably not	39.2%				
Definitely not	20.6%				
Number	767	Number	863	Number	48
Pheasant Hunters					
Will you hunt geese in the future?					
Never Goose Hunted (49.7%)		Past Goose Hunters (46.8%)		Current Goose Hunters (3.5%)	
Definitely will	1.9%	Yes	37.1%	Yes	85.0%
Probably will	14.8%	Undecided	46.6%	Undecided	11.7%
Not Sure	32.4%	No	16.3%	No	3.3%
Probably not	34.7%				
Definitely not	16.2%				
Number	796	Number	790	Number	60

Example calculation:

1a) Pheasant hunters that never duck hunted who definitely will hunt ducks in the future:

$$1.7\% \times 46.5\% \times 76,000 \text{ (2008 pheasant hunters in 2008)} = 601$$

1b) Pheasant hunters that never duck hunted who probably will hunt ducks in the future:

$$9.0\% \times 46.5\% \times 76,000 \text{ (2008 pheasant hunters in 2008)} = 3,181$$

2) Pheasant hunters that hunted ducks in the past who plan to hunt ducks in the future:

$$28.3\% \times 50.7\% \times 76,000 \text{ (2008 pheasant hunters in 2008)} = 10,905$$

Figure 1. Example calculations demonstrating how to estimate the potential for increasing duck and goose hunting by recruiting from the population of licensed pheasant hunters without the state waterfowl license (Migratory Bird Certification) using data from Table 6.

This survey also identified another possible issue—unlicensed waterfowl hunters. Probably some of the 4.2% of licensed small game hunters in this sample of hunters without a state waterfowl license (Migratory Bird Certification) mistakenly reported duck and/or goose hunting in 2008, but based on the profile of hunters in the group it is likely that many of them did indeed waterfowl hunt in 2008. If just 2.5% of the 2008 resident small game hunters participated in waterfowl hunting without the state waterfowl license that would amount to about 1,900 un-counted waterfowl hunters in GFP's projections. Since there were 17,751 projected resident waterfowl hunters in South Dakota for 2008, 1,900 un-counted waterfowl hunters would represent about an 11% increase.

While the numbers of potential waterfowl hunter participants discussed in this report are encouraging, they probably represent an unrealistic estimate of what can be achieved. An agency has little control over many of the more important constraints to waterfowl hunting participation listed by hunters. However, there are some things that an agency can do that will move waterfowl hunting participation in the right direction. Below is a short list of some basic guidelines generated from this study for developing projects and programs designed to increase waterfowl hunting participation:

1. Increased information on places to waterfowl hunt.
2. Improve access to water (e.g., trails, roads, boat ramps) as well as buying/leasing wetlands suitable for waterfowl hunting.
3. Emphasize family hunting opportunities.
4. Emphasize family hunting opportunities.
5. Offer free waterfowl hunting workshops.
6. Emphasize the “challenge” aspect of waterfowl hunting.
7. Increased reminders and information about waterfowl hunting opportunities in South Dakota (GFP has just started doing this via e-mail reminders and notices).
8. Focus efforts on highly involved pheasant hunters, especially hunting dog owners. Focus on past (lapsed) waterfowl hunters.
9. Use an adaptive management process for developing projects and programs, based on these basic guidelines, to address the issue of declining waterfowl hunter numbers.

Adaptive Management Process. The next step will be to develop projects and programs based on these basic guidelines. The best way to get started would be a brainstorming session(s) with GFP staff. Once a list of potential projects/programs are identified they can be evaluated on which ones GFP will implement. An important step in adaptive management processes is to include an evaluation step. It will be especially important to evaluate the effectiveness (how much impact did each project/program have on increasing waterfowl hunting participation) and efficiency (cost vs. benefit) of each project/program.

Youth Recruitment. This study focused on resident adult hunters, however, the long-term future of waterfowl hunting will depend on the numbers and type of youth that get involved in the waterfowl hunting culture. This study identified the top two influences on current hunters’ involvement in waterfowl hunting as family and friends, with the family influence having a stronger effect on hunters’ rating of the personal importance of waterfowl hunting. The next research step will be to develop a study of young hunters exploring potential recruitment and possible constraints to youth waterfowl recruitment into the waterfowl hunting culture.

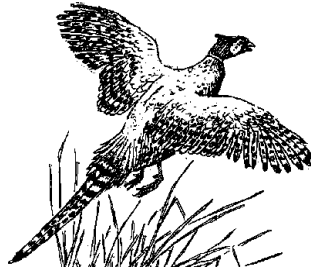
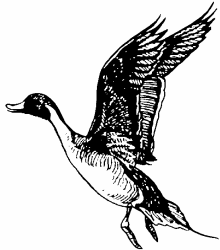
Appendix C contains optional comments provided by survey participants at the end of their questionnaire that may help identify projects/programs designed to increase waterfowl hunting participation.

Appendix A

South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey – 2008

Questionnaires and other mailings used in the survey.

2008 South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey Pheasant, Ducks & Geese



December 2008

Dear South Dakota Resident Hunter,

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks is conducting a survey to describe Resident Small Game and Combination License purchasers based on our current 2008 database. This survey will ask about your past and present pheasant, duck and geese hunting activities and will mostly focus on attitudes related to these activities.

Your name was randomly selected from our current list of licensed hunters to participate in this survey. It is important that everyone selected participate so that we get representative input from all types and levels of hunters.

This information will help GFP continue to serve the needs of our resident hunters as wildlife management is a partnership between hunter and wildlife professionals. Wildlife managers need frequent information from hunters to best manage the state's wildlife resources. We know that this is a rather lengthy survey but we sincerely hope that you will help us with this study. Thank you.

Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

Planning Coordinator / Human Dimensions Specialist

Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501



Serving People, Managing Wildlife

DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

- Please try to answer what you believe to be true for you. The best answer is the one that most closely reflects your own feelings and beliefs, or what you actually did.
- Do not write your name on the questionnaire. Your answers will be treated confidentially. The questionnaire had an identification number so that your name can be checked off our list when you return your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls. Your name will never be associated with your responses.
- It is important that the person to whom this was addressed fill out the questionnaire, even if someone else in your family is a more active bird hunter.
- A summary of results will be sent to all participants in this survey, and a copy of the complete report will be available upon request.
- If you have any questions about the **survey** contact Larry Gigliotti @ 605-773-4231 (e-mail address: Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us).
- Your response is important. We need information from current as well as past hunters; frequent as well as infrequent hunters, i.e. from all types and levels of hunters.
- This survey is voluntary. If you do not want to participate please check this box ☐ and return your blank questionnaire.
- Please return your questionnaire using the postage-paid business reply envelope.

Your assistance in completing your survey is greatly appreciated! The information you provide will help us develop a plan for maintaining quality hunting opportunities in South Dakota. A space is provided at the end of this questionnaire for any special comments you may want to make.



Please do not remove the cover from your questionnaire. The ID number on the front cover is used to let us know that you returned your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls.

2008

South Dakota Bird Hunter Participation Survey Focus on Pheasants, Ducks and Geese

Dear South Dakota Resident Bird Hunter,

Game, Fish and Parks is conducting an extensive evaluation of resident bird hunters this year, focusing on: pheasants, ducks and geese. We need information about your current and past hunting participation for each of these three groups of game birds.

Pheasant Hunting



1. How many years have you pheasant hunted in South Dakota including this year? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. 0 (never) → Please skip ahead to question #8 (at top of page 5) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. 1 year → Please skip ahead to question #3 (on bottom of page 2). | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. 2 – 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. 11 – 20 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. 4 – 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. 21 – 30 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. 6 – 10 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. 31 or more years |

Your South Dakota Pheasant Hunting History (2004 – 2008)

2. Thinking of the past 5 years, which years did you pheasant hunt in South Dakota? *Please check (✓) ALL that apply.*

- ☐ 2004 ☐ 2005 ☐ 2006 ☐ 2007 ☐ 2008

If you did NOT check ALL 5 years, please answer each of the items in question 2-A in the box below. If you checked ALL 5 years please skip ahead to question 3 on

2-A. For the years during 2004–2008 that you did not pheasant hunt in South Dakota, please rate the importance of each reason for why you did not pheasant hunt.

<u>Please provide a response for each item</u>	<u>Not A Reason</u>	<u>Slightly Important Reason</u>	<u>Moderately Important Reason</u>	<u>Very Important Reason</u>
a) was not old enough.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) was not living in South Dakota at the time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) was too busy to go pheasant hunting some years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) illness/injury kept me from going pheasant hunting some years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <u>work</u> obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting some years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continued on next page

2-A. Continued. For the years during 2004–2008 that you did **not** pheasant hunt in South Dakota, please rate the importance of each reason for why you did not pheasant hunt.

<u>Please provide a response for each item</u>	<u>Not A Reason</u>	<u>Slightly Important Reason</u>	<u>Moderately Important Reason</u>	<u>Very Important Reason</u>
f) <u>school</u> obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting some years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) <u>family</u> obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting some years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) <u>military</u> obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting some years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) too expensive to pheasant hunting every year.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) some years I felt that the pheasant populations were too low to go pheasant hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) did not have someone to go pheasant hunting with some years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) did not have a good place to go pheasant hunting pheasant hunting some years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) felt that it was too crowded to go pheasant hunting some years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) did not have a hunting dog to go pheasant hunting some years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) was under license revocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How important is pheasant hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation, including other types of hunting? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- ☐ 1. My **MOST** important recreational activity
- ☐ 2. **VERY** important, but not the most important
- ☐ 3. **MODERATELY** important
- ☐ 4. **SLIGHTLY** important
- ☐ 5. **NOT** important
- ☐ 6. No Opinion

4. Considering all of your **outdoor recreational activities**, how many substitutes do you have for pheasant hunting? In other words, if you could **not** participate in pheasant hunting, how many other different outdoor recreational activities are there that you enjoy doing just about as much or more? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- ☐ 1. I have **no** substitutes for pheasant hunting
- ☐ 2. I have **a few** (1-2) substitutes for pheasant hunting
- ☐ 3. I have **some** (3-4) substitutes for pheasant hunting
- ☐ 4. I have **many** (5 or more) substitutes for pheasant hunting
- ☐ 5. No Opinion

5. People enjoy pheasant hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the important of each reason for why you like to pheasant hunt in South Dakota. *Please rate by circling one number for each item on the scale from 0 (not at all important) to 7 (very important).*

<u>Reasons for liking pheasant hunting in S.D.</u>	Not Important ←————→ Very Important								
a) To bring meat home for food.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
b) To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
c) For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you flush a pheasant, etc.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
d) Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
e) To demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment and for the challenges associated with pheasant hunting.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
f) To spend time alone in the outdoors...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
g) Enjoying the time and challenges of working with your hunting dog(s).....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

6. Overall, which statement in the above question best describes the **most** important reason for why you like South Dakota pheasant hunting? *Please circle one letter for your top reason; see statements in question # 5 (above).*

a b c d e f g

If you did any pheasant hunting this year (October 11, 2008 – January 4, 2009) please answer the questions in the box below before continuing with the survey. If you did not do any pheasant hunting this year please skip ahead to question # 8 on the next page.

- 7-A. About how many days (regardless of how many hours each day) did you pheasant hunt and how many pheasants did you shoot and retrieve this year (October 11, 2008 – January 4, 2009)? *Please provide your best estimate.*

[] DAYS [] PHEASANTS HARVESTED

- 7-B. Which county did you hunt for pheasants most often? _____

- 7-C. Based on an average rating of all areas you hunted, how would you rate this year's (2008) pheasant numbers in those areas? *Please circle only one response.*

Very <u>Abundant</u>	<u>Abundant</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Scarce</u>	Very <u>Scarce</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

- 7-D. What type of land did you pheasant hunt in 2008? Please estimate the approximate percentage of your total pheasant hunting time on each type of land listed below.

% of time spent:

_____ % a) Private land – no fees charged

_____ % b) Private land – fees charged

_____ % c) Private shooting preserve

_____ % d) Public land

_____ % e) Designated Walk-In Areas

_____ % f) Road Rights-of-Ways

100%



- 7-E. Overall, considering your total pheasant hunting experiences this year (2008), how dissatisfied or satisfied were you? *Please circle only one response.*

Very <u>Dissatisfied</u>	Moderately <u>Dissatisfied</u>	Slightly <u>Dissatisfied</u>	Neutral or <u>No Opinion</u>	Slightly <u>Satisfied</u>	Moderately <u>Satisfied</u>	Very <u>Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- 7-F. Compared to all your previous years of pheasant hunting in South Dakota, how easy or difficult was it to find good places to pheasant hunt this year (2008).

Very <u>Easy</u>	Moderately <u>Easy</u>	Slightly <u>Easy</u>	<u>Average</u>	Slightly <u>Difficult</u>	Moderately <u>Difficult</u>	Very <u>Difficult</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Duck Hunting



8. Which statement below best describes your duck hunting experiences in South Dakota?
Please check (✓) only one response.

- ☐ a) I have never hunted ducks in South Dakota → **Please answer the questions in Box A**
- ☐ b) I have hunted ducks in South Dakota in the past, but not this year (2008) → **Please answer the questions in Box B (on next page)**
- ☐ c) I hunted ducks in South Dakota this year (2008) → **Please answer the questions in Box B (on next page).**

Box A – Answer these questions if you checked box a in the above question (# 8).

A-1. How likely might you go duck hunting in South Dakota in the future? *Please circle only one response.*

Definitely <u>Not</u>	Probably <u>Not</u>	Not Sure <u>Either Way</u>	Probably <u>Yes</u>	Definitely <u>Yes</u>
1	2	3	4	5

A-2. How much do you disagree or agree with each item about your impressions of duck hunting in South Dakota? *Please circle one response for each item.*

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Slightly Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Slightly Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
a) Duck hunting is too expensive.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) I think that I would enjoy duck hunting..	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) Duck hunting regulations are too complex.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) Duck hunting sounds too difficult.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
e) I don't think that I would ever find the time to go duck hunting.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
f) It is too difficult to find places to go duck hunting.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
g) I think it would be too difficult to learn how to identify ducks in flight.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

A-3. How interested would you be in a FREE, 1-day workshop to learn about duck hunting (e.g., how to identify ducks in flight, duck hunting regulations, effective shooting tips, etc.)?

<u>Very Interested</u>	<u>Moderately Interested</u>	<u>Slightly Interested</u>	<u>Not Interested</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5

Box B – Answer these questions if you checked box b or c in question (# 8) on page.

B-1. About how many years have you hunted ducks in South Dakota? [_____] Years

B-2. Of the previous five years (2003–2007), which years have you hunted **ducks** in South Dakota? *Please check (✓) all that apply.*

☐ 2003 ☐ 2004 ☐ 2005 ☐ 2006 ☐ 2007

B-3. Did you ever hunt ducks in another state (other than South Dakota)? ☐ No ☐ Yes

B-4. Do you intend to hunt ducks in South Dakota or some other state in the future?

☐ No ☐ Not Sure, Undecided ☐ Yes

B-5. How important is **DUCK** hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

Duck Hunting is:

- ☐ 1. My **MOST** important recreational activity
- ☐ 2. **VERY** important, but not the most important (i.e. more important than most other activities)
- ☐ 3. **MODERATELY** important, but several types of recreation are more important
- ☐ 4. **SLIGHTLY** important, but ranked relatively low compared to other types of recreation
- ☐ 5. **NOT** important
- ☐ 6. **NO OPINION**

B-6. How much do you disagree or agree with each item about your impressions of duck hunting in South Dakota? *Please circle one response for each item.*

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Slightly Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Slightly Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
a) Duck hunting is too expensive.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) Duck hunting regulations are too complex.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) Duck hunting is difficult.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) It is difficult to find places to go duck hunting.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
e) I enjoy duck hunting.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

Box B continued on next page....

Box B – Continued...

B-7. How interested would you be in a FREE, 1-day workshop to improve your duck hunting knowledge and skills (e.g., how to identify ducks in flight, duck hunting regulations, effective shooting tips, etc.)?

<u>Very Interested</u>	<u>Moderately Interested</u>	<u>Slightly Interested</u>	<u>Not Interested</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5

Goose Hunting



9. Which statement below best describes your goose hunting experiences in South Dakota?
Please check (✓) only one response.

- ☐ a) I have never hunted geese in South Dakota → **Please answer the questions in Box C**
- ☐ b) I have hunted geese in South Dakota in the past, but not this year (2008) → **Please answer the questions in Box D (on next page)**
- ☐ c) I hunted geese in South Dakota this year (2008) → **Please answer the questions in Box D (on next page).**

Box C – Answer these questions if you checked box a in the above question (# 9).

C-1. How likely might you go goose hunting in South Dakota in the future? *Please circle only one response.*

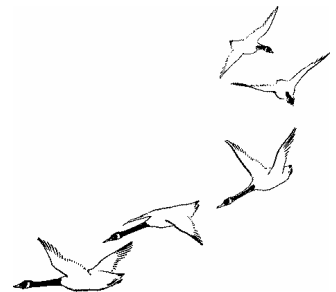
<u>Definitely Not</u>	<u>Probably Not</u>	<u>Not Sure Either Way</u>	<u>Probably Yes</u>	<u>Definitely Yes</u>
1	2	3	4	5

C-2. How much do you disagree or agree with each item about your impressions of goose hunting in South Dakota? *Please circle one response for each item.*

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Slightly Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Slightly Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
a) Goose hunting is too expensive.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
b) I think that I would enjoy goose hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6
c) Goose hunting sounds too difficult.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
d) It is too difficult to find places to go goose hunting.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

Box D – Answer these questions if you checked box b or c in question (# 9) on page.

- D-1. About how many years have you hunted geese in South Dakota? [_____] Years
- D-2. Of the previous five years (2003–2007), which years have you hunted **geese** in South Dakota? *Please check (✓) all that apply.*
- ☐ 2003 ☐ 2004 ☐ 2005 ☐ 2006 ☐ 2007
- D-3. Did you ever hunt geese in another state (other than South Dakota)? ☐ No ☐ Yes
- D-4. Do you intend to hunt geese in South Dakota or some other state in the future?
- ☐ No ☐ Not Sure, Undecided ☐ Yes
- D-5. How important is **GOOSE** hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)? *Please check (✓) only one response.*
- Goose Hunting is:**
- ☐ 1. My **MOST** important recreational activity
- ☐ 2. **VERY** important, but not the most important (i.e. more important than most other activities)
- ☐ 3. **MODERATELY** important, but several types of recreation are more important
- ☐ 4. **SLIGHTLY** important, but ranked relatively low compared to other types of recreation
- ☐ 5. **NOT** important
- ☐ 6. **NO OPINION**
- D-6. How do you usually hunt geese? *Please check (✓) only one response.*
- ☐ 1. PASS SHOOTING
- ☐ 2. OVER FIELD DECOYS
- ☐ 3. OVER FLOATING DECOYS
- ☐ 4. INCIDENTAL WHILE HUNTING DUCKS OR OTHER GAME



Information About Yourself:

10. What is your age and gender? _____ years ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

11. Which South Dakota county do you live in? _____

12. Is your residence: ☐ RURAL

☐ SMALL TOWN

☐ CITY (greater than 10,000) (the following S.D. cities are greater than 10,000:
Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings, Pierre-Ft. Pierre,
Mitchell, Yankton, Huron, Vermillion)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY. We will send all participants a copy of the summary results when the report is completed.

You can use this page for any comments you would like to make. These comments will be typed (provided they are legible) and put into a report that will be given to the Game, Fish & Parks Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators and made available to the public. Your name will not be associated with your comments in the report.



Optional Comments:

To return your questionnaire, fold it in half and return it using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.



First Postcard Reminder

January 12, 2009

Last week I mailed you a South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt any pheasants, ducks or geese this year because we also need to know that information. The survey is also designed to collect your opinions about bird hunting in South Dakota. This survey was sent to a small, randomly selected sample of resident hunters.

Please try to respond to the first mailing of the survey by January 27. If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or if it got misplaced, don't worry (just wait and watch your mail) as a second questionnaire will be mailed to you in a couple of weeks if we don't receive your completed questionnaire in the mail.

Larry Gigliotti

Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

Letter sent with 2nd mailing of questionnaire:



Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182



February 4, 2009

Dear South Dakota Resident Hunter:

You have been randomly selected to participate in a survey to describe Resident Small Game and Combination License purchasers. As of February 3, 2009 we have not received your completed questionnaire. If you mailed it in the past 5 days it is likely that it crossed this mailing and you can discard this follow-up request. If you have not yet returned your questionnaire I urge you to take the time to complete and return it, as your response is very valuable.

Because the purpose is to describe our license purchasers in terms of their hunting behavior it is important that we hear from everyone selected for this survey. Some people feel that because they don't hunt very much that their participation in this survey is not important, but it is just as important to hear from license holders that do very little or no hunting as it is to hear from very active hunters. Our small, randomly selected sample is designed to accurately describe our license holders. Your response is needed to ensure that this survey is scientifically valid.

I included another questionnaire with this mailing in case you did not receive the questionnaire in the earlier mailing or misplaced your questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Larry M. Gigliotti



Second Postcard Reminder

February 17, 2009

Last week I mailed you a South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt any pheasants, ducks or geese this year because it is also important to know the number of licensed hunters that do little or no bird hunting. The survey is also designed to collect your opinions about bird hunting in South Dakota. Any amount of information that you can provide will help us with this study.

This survey was sent to a small, randomly selected sample of resident hunters. **Deadline for responding to this survey in time for it to be used in our study is March 16, 2009.**

Larry Gigliotti

Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

NON-RESPONSE SURVEY

2008 SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD HUNTER SURVEY

Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501



Please do not remove your mailing label.

Dear South Dakota Resident Hunter,

March 2009

This is a short follow-up survey to the rather lengthy survey that we sent you last month as part of our study to describe Resident Small Game and Combination License purchasers. The purpose is to determine if non-respondents are different from those that responded to the earlier survey. This survey is needed to scientifically adjust for possible non-response bias. This survey should only take a few minutes to complete. We would greatly appreciate your assistance with this study. It is important that everyone selected participate so that we get representative input from all types and levels of hunters. Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire and return it using the pre-paid envelope provided. Thank you.

Larry M. Gigliotti

Pheasant Hunting



6. How many years have you pheasant hunted in South Dakota including this year? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. 0 (never) → Please skip ahead to question # 4 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. 1 year → Please skip ahead to question # 3 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. 2 – 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. 11 – 20 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. 4 – 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. 21 – 30 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. 6 – 10 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. 31 or more years |

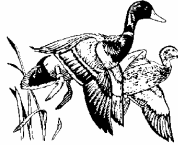
7. Thinking of the past 5 years, which years did you pheasant hunt in South Dakota? *Please check (✓) ALL that apply.*

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2004 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2005 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2006 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2007 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2008 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

8. How important is pheasant hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation, including other types of hunting? Please check (✓) only one response.

- ☐ 1. My **MOST** important recreational activity
- ☐ 2. **VERY** important, but not the most important
- ☐ 3. **MODERATELY** important
- ☐ 4. **SLIGHTLY** important
- ☐ 5. **NOT** important
- ☐ 6. No Opinion

Duck Hunting



9. Which statement below best describes your duck hunting experiences in South Dakota? Please check (✓) only one response.

- ☐ a) I have never hunted ducks in South Dakota
- ☐ b) I have hunted ducks in South Dakota in the past, but not this year (2008)
- ☐ c) I hunted ducks in South Dakota this year (2008)



Goose Hunting

10. Which statement below best describes your goose hunting experiences in South Dakota? Please check (✓) only one response.

- ☐ a) I have never hunted geese in South Dakota
- ☐ b) I have hunted geese in South Dakota in the past, but not this year (2008)
- ☐ c) I hunted geese in South Dakota this year (2008)

Information About Yourself:

11. What is your age and gender? _____years ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

12. Is your residence: ☐ RURAL
☐ SMALL TOWN

☐ CITY (greater than 10,000) (the following S.D. cities are greater than 10,000:
Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings, Pierre-Ft. Pierre,
Mitchell, Yankton, Huron, Vermillion)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY. We will send all participants a copy of the summary results when the report is completed.

Please return you questionnaire using the addressed, pre-paid return envelop provided.

Third Postcard Reminder

March 27, 2009

Last week I mailed you a short Bird Hunter Survey. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt any pheasants, ducks or geese this year because it is also important to know the number of licensed hunters that do little or no bird hunting. The survey is also designed to collect your opinions about bird hunting in South Dakota. Any amount of information that you can provide will help us with this study.

This survey was sent to a small, randomly selected sample of resident hunters. **Deadline for responding to this survey in time for it to be used in our study is April 17, 2009.**

Larry Gigliotti

Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey – 2008

Appendix B – TABLES

Appendix B – Table 1. Return rates for the South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey – 2008.

Parameter	License Type		Combined
	Small Game	Combination	
Initial Sample Size	1,400	1,600	3,000
ID Numbers	1 – 1400	1401 – 3000	1 – 3000
Percent of Sample	46.7%	53.3%	100%
Number of Licenses	35,754	44,077	79,831
Undeliverable	129	116	245
Final Sample Size	1,271	1,484	2,755
Number Returned	843	1,057	1,905*
Initial Return Rate	66.3%	71.2%	69.1%
Number Returned Blank	23	41	64
Usable Questionnaires	820	1,016	1,841
Usable Return Rate	64.5%	68.5%	66.8%
Non-Response Survey			
Sample Size	428	427	855
Usable Returns	89	125	214
Return Rate	20.8%	29.3%	25.0%
Combined Return Rate	71.5%	76.9%	74.6%

*Includes 5 returns that removed the survey ID number.

Evaluation of Non-response Bias

Appendix B – Table 2. Distribution of useable questionnaires by license type and survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

License Type	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Small Game	820	44.7%	89	41.6%	909	44.3%
Combination	1,016	55.3%	125	58.4%	1,141	55.7%
Total	1,836	100%	214	100%	2,050	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=0.161$; $df=1$; $p=0.688$						

Appendix B – Table 3. Years of South Dakota pheasant hunting experience analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Experience Category	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 (none)	72	3.9%	9	4.2%
1 year	83	4.5%	16	7.5%
2 – 3 years	109	6.0%	19	8.9%
4 – 5 years	102	5.6%	15	7.0%
6 – 10 years	227	12.4%	36	16.8%
11 – 20 years	357	19.6%	43	20.1%
21 – 30 years	291	15.9%	37	17.3%
31 or more	585	32.0%	39	18.2%
Total	1,826	100%	214	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=21.745$; $df=7$; $p=0.003$				

Appendix B – Table 3-Continued. Years of South Dakota pheasant hunting experience analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Experience Category	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
0 (none)	81	4.0%	4.0%
1 year	99	4.9%	5.5%
2 – 3 years	128	6.3%	7.0%
4 – 5 years	117	5.7%	6.1%
6 – 10 years	263	12.9%	13.9%
11 – 20 years	400	19.6%	19.8%
21 – 30 years	328	16.1%	16.3%
31 or more	624	30.6%	27.4%
Total	2,040	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 4. Number of years hunting pheasants in South Dakota during the past 5 seasons (2004–2008) (excludes hunters with 0 or only 1 year of pheasant hunting experience) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Years Hunting	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	46	2.8%	5	2.6%
1	61	3.7%	7	3.7%
2	147	8.8%	18	9.5%
3	140	8.4%	26	13.8%
4	150	9.0%	25	13.2%
5	1,127	67.4%	108	57.1%
Total	1,671	100%	189	100%
Median	5.00		5.00	
Mean	4.20		4.03	
95% C.I.	4.13 – 4.26		3.83 – 4.22	
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=11.588$; $df=5$; $p=0.041$				

Appendix B – Table 4-Continued. Number of years hunting pheasants in South Dakota during the past 5 seasons (2004–2008) (excludes hunters with 0 or only 1 year of pheasant hunting experience) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Years Hunting	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
0	51	2.7%	2.7%
1	68	3.7%	3.6%
2	165	8.9%	9.1%
3	166	8.9%	10.2%
4	175	9.4%	10.4%
5	1,235	66.4%	64.0%
Total	1,860	100%	100%
Median	5.00		5.00
Mean	4.18		4.15
95% C.I.	N/A		N/A

Appendix B – Table 5. How important is pheasant hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation, including other types of hunting analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008)?

Importance of Pheasant Hunting (scale)	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Most (4)	149	8.8%	18	8.7%
Very (3)	599	35.3%	56	27.2%
Moderately (2)	558	32.9%	69	33.5%
Slightly (1)	272	16.0%	35	17.0%
Not (0)	94	5.5%	20	9.7%
No Opinion (0)	24	1.4%	8	3.9%
Total	1,696	100%	206	100%
Median	2.00		2.00	
Mean	2.23		2.00	
95% C.I.	2.18 – 2.28		1.85 – 2.16	
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=15.624$; $df=5$; $p=0.008$				

Appendix B – Table 5-Continued. How important is pheasant hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation, including other types of hunting analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008)?

Importance of Pheasant Hunting (scale)	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Most (4)	167	8.8%	8.8%
Very (3)	655	34.4%	32.6%
Moderately (2)	627	33.0%	33.1%
Slightly (1)	307	16.1%	16.4%
Not (0)	114	6.0%	6.9%
No Opinion (0)	32	1.7%	2.2%
Total	1,902	100%	100%
Median	2.00		2.00
Mean	2.20		2.15
95% C.I.	N/A		N/A

Appendix B – Table 6. Duck hunting experiences in South Dakota analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

South Dakota Duck Hunting	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	808	46.5%	101	47.2%
In the Past	882	50.7%	105	49.1%
Hunted 2008	49	2.8%	8	3.7%
Total	1,739	100%	214	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=0.678$; $df=2$; $p=0.712$				

Appendix B – Table 6-Continued. Duck hunting experiences in South Dakota analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

South Dakota Duck Hunting	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
None	909	46.5%	46.7%
In the Past	987	50.5%	50.2%
Hunted 2008	57	2.9%	3.1%
Total	1,953	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 7. Goose hunting experiences in South Dakota analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

South Dakota Goose Hunting	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	852	49.7%	111	51.9%
In the Past	802	46.8%	93	43.5%
Hunted 2008	60	3.5%	10	4.7%
Total	1,714	100%	214	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=1.353$; $df=2$; $p=0.508$				

Appendix B – Table 7-Continued. Goose hunting experiences in South Dakota analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

South Dakota Goose Hunting	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
None	963	50.0%	50.4%
In the Past	895	46.4%	45.7%
Hunted 2008	70	3.6%	3.9%
Total	1,928	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 8. Gender of South Dakota bird hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Gender	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	1,639	92.4%	194	90.7%
Female	134	7.6%	20	9.3%
Total	1,773	100%	214	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=0.854$; $df=1$; $p=0.355$				

Appendix B – Table 8-Continued. Gender of South Dakota bird hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Gender	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Male	1,833	92.2%	91.8%
Female	154	7.8%	8.2%
Total	1,987	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 9. South Dakota bird hunters' residence type analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Residence Type	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural	578	32.2%	68	31.8%
Small Town	521	29.0%	68	31.8%
City	697	38.8%	78	36.4%
Total	1,796	100%	214	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=0.786$; $df=2$; $p=0.675$				

Appendix B – Table 9-Continued. South Dakota bird hunters' residence type analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Residence Type	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Rural	646	32.1%	32.1%
Small Town	589	29.3%	29.9%
City	775	38.6%	38.0%
Total	2,010	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 10. Age of South Dakota bird hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Age Category	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
12 – 19	15	0.8%	2	0.9%
20 – 29	270	15.1%	50	23.6%
30 – 39	283	15.8%	45	21.2%
40 – 49	402	22.5%	45	21.2%
50 – 59	466	26.1%	46	21.7%
60 – 69	256	14.3%	16	7.5%
70 – 79	83	4.6%	6	2.8%
80 – 89	13	0.7%	2	0.9%
Total	1,788	100%	212	100%
Range	12 – 88		19 – 84	
Median	48.0		41.0	
Mean	46.7		42.1	
95% C.I.	46.0 – 47.4		40.2 – 44.1	
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=21.368$; $df=7$; $p=0.003$				

Appendix B – Table 10-Continued. Age of South Dakota bird hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Age Category	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
12 – 19	17	0.9%	0.8%
20 – 29	320	16.0%	17.9%
30 – 39	328	16.4%	17.6%
40 – 49	447	22.4%	22.1%
50 – 59	512	25.6%	24.6%
60 – 69	272	13.6%	12.1%
70 – 79	89	4.5%	4.1%
80 – 89	15	0.8%	0.8%
Total	2,000	100%	100%
Range	12 – 88		N/A
Median	N/A		N/A
Mean	46.2		45.2
95% C.I.	N/A		N/A

Pheasant Hunting

Appendix B – Table 11. Frequency of Pheasant Hunting: Years of pheasant hunting during the past five years (2004 – 2008) (SD Bird Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Year Hunted	Pheasant Hunters with more than 1 year of pheasant hunting experience		
	Number	Percent of Responses	Percent of Cases
2004	1,337	19.1%	80.0%
2005	1,359	19.4%	81.3%
2006	1,400	20.0%	83.8%
2007	1,449	20.7%	86.7%
2008	1,465	20.9%	87.7%
Total Number/Cases	7,010	100% (1,671)	419.5%

Appendix B – Table 12. Frequency of Pheasant Hunting by hunters with 6 or more years of pheasant hunting experience: Years of pheasant hunting during the past five years (2004 – 2008) (SD Bird Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Year Hunted	Pheasant Hunters w/ 6 or more years of pheasant hunting experience		
	Number	Percent of Responses	Percent of Cases
2004	1,269	19.9%	86.9%
2005	1,262	19.8%	86.4%
2006	1,269	19.9%	86.9%
2007	1,283	20.1%	87.9%
2008	1,288	20.2%	88.2%
Total Number/Cases	6,371	100% (1,460)	436.3%

Years Hunting	Number	Percent	Population Estimate ¹
0	39	2.7%	2.4%
1	48	3.3%	3.1%
2	88	6.0%	6.4%
3	81	5.5%	6.0%
4	116	7.9%	10.0%
5	1,088	74.5%	72.1%
Total	1,460	100%	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	4.36	4.30 – 4.43	4.34

¹Adjusted for non-response bias.

Appendix B – Table 13. Mean importance and frequencies of reasons hunters (with one or more years of pheasant hunting experience) did not all five years (2004–2008) (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Hunters w/ 1 or more years of pheasant hunting experience: Reasons for not hunting every year (2004–2008)	Mean Importance ¹	95% C.I.		
Was too busy to go pheasant hunting some years	1.64	1.54 – 1.75		
Work obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting	1.40	1.29 – 1.51		
Did not have a good place to go pheasant hunting	1.13	1.02 – 1.24		
Family obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting	0.83	0.73 – 0.93		
Did not have someone to go pheasant hunting with	0.71	0.62 – 0.80		
Too expensive to pheasant hunt every year	0.63	0.54 – 0.71		
Felt that it was too crowded to go pheasant hunting	0.62	0.54 – 0.71		
Pheasant populations were too low to go pheasant hunting	0.54	0.46 – 0.63		
Was not living in South Dakota at the time	0.51	0.41 – 0.61		
Illness/injury kept me form going pheasant hunting	0.49	0.40 – 0.58		
Did not have a hunting dog to go pheasant hunting	0.37	0.30 – 0.45		
School obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting	0.25	0.18 – 0.32		
Military obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting	0.19	0.12 – 0.25		
Was not old enough	0.07	0.03 – 0.11		
Was under license revocation	0.05	0.02 – 0.08		
Hunters w/ 1 or more years of pheasant hunting experience: Reasons for not hunting every year (2004–2008)	Frequencies			
	Not A Reason	Slightly Important Reason	Moderately Important Reason	Very Important Reason
Was too busy to go pheasant hunting	28.5%	12.1%	26.1%	33.3%
Work obligations kept me from going	38.8%	11.4%	20.9%	28.9%
Did not have a good place to go hunting	46.9%	13.0%	20.5%	19.7%
Family obligations kept me from going	58.3%	13.8%	14.8%	13.1%
Did not have someone to go hunting with	58.9%	17.2%	17.4%	6.4%
Too expensive to pheasant hunt every year	64.8%	15.5%	12.1%	7.6%
Felt that it was too crowded to go hunting	65.0%	14.9%	12.8%	7.2%
Pheasant populations were too low to go	69.2%	14.4%	9.3%	7.0%
Was not living in South Dakota at the time	81.5%	1.1%	1.9%	15.5%
Illness/injury kept me form going	79.3%	3.8%	5.3%	11.6%
Did not have a hunting dog to go hunting	79.6%	8.2%	7.5%	4.7%
School obligations kept me from going	88.3%	3.5%	3.2%	5.0%
Military obligations kept me from going	92.7%	0.9%	1.3%	5.1%
Was not old enough	97.2%	0.4%	0.7%	1.7%
Was under license revocation	97.6%	1.1%	0.0%	1.3%

¹Importance Scale: 0=Not a Reason; 1=Slight; 2=Moderately; 3=Very Important Reason

Appendix B – Table 14. Two-group cluster solution for reasons hunters (with one or more years of pheasant hunting experience) did not all five years (2004–2008) (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Hunters w/ 1 or more years of pheasant hunting experience: Reasons for not hunting every year (2004–2008)	Mean Importance ¹		<i>p</i> -value
	Group 1 (N=180; 42.0%)	Group 2 (N=249; 58.0%)	
Was too busy to go pheasant hunting	0.49	2.39	<0.001
Work obligations kept me from going	0.33	2.08	<0.001
Did not have a good place to go hunting	0.82	1.31	<0.001
Family obligations kept me from going	0.23	1.23	<0.001
Did not have someone to go hunting with	0.43	0.89	<0.001
Too expensive to pheasant hunt every year	0.38	0.72	<0.001
Felt that it was too crowded to go hunting	0.36	0.80	<0.001
Pheasant populations were too low to go	0.42	0.56	0.111
Was not living in South Dakota at the time	0.76	0.25	<0.001
Illness/injury kept me from going	0.48	0.38	0.305
Did not have a hunting dog to go hunting	0.15	0.51	<0.001
School obligations kept me from going	0.17	0.31	0.055
Military obligations kept me from going	0.17	0.14	0.655
Was not old enough	0.05	0.07	0.636
Was under license revocation	0.02	0.08	0.119

¹Importance Scale: 0=Not a Reason; 1=Slight; 2=Moderately; 3=Very Important Reason

Appendix B – Table 15. Mean importance and frequencies of reasons hunters (with six or more years of pheasant hunting experience) did not all five years (2004–2008) (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Hunters w/ 6 or more years of pheasant hunting experience: Reasons for not hunting every year (2004–2008)	Mean Importance ¹	95% C.I.		
Was too busy to go pheasant hunting some years	1.70	1.57 – 1.82		
Work obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting	1.52	1.39 – 1.66		
Did not have a good place to go pheasant hunting	1.19	1.06 – 1.33		
Family obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting	0.86	0.73 – 0.98		
Felt that it was too crowded to go pheasant hunting	0.67	0.57 – 0.78		
Pheasant populations were too low to go pheasant hunting	0.64	0.53 – 0.75		
Too expensive to pheasant hunt every year	0.64	0.53 – 0.74		
Did not have someone to go pheasant hunting with	0.63	0.53 – 0.73		
Illness/injury kept me form going pheasant hunting	0.61	0.49 – 0.73		
Was not living in South Dakota at the time	0.39	0.28 – 0.50		
Did not have a hunting dog to go pheasant hunting	0.33	0.25 – 0.42		
School obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting	0.24	0.15 – 0.32		
Military obligations kept me from going pheasant hunting	0.20	0.12 – 0.28		
Was under license revocation	0.05	0.01 – 0.09		
Was not old enough	0.04	0.00 – 0.07		
Hunters w/ 6 or more years of pheasant hunting experience: Reasons for not hunting every year (2004–2008)	Frequencies			
	Not A Reason	Slightly Important Reason	Moderately Important Reason	Very Important Reason
Was too busy to go pheasant hunting	26.0%	13.5%	25.4%	35.0%
Work obligations kept me from going	34.8%	10.9%	21.2%	33.0%
Did not have a good place to go hunting	45.2%	11.5%	22.3%	21.1%
Family obligations kept me from going	56.9%	14.5%	14.5%	14.2%
Felt that it was too crowded to go hunting	61.7%	16.8%	13.9%	7.6%
Pheasant populations were too low to go	63.9%	16.3%	11.3%	8.5%
Too expensive to pheasant hunt every year	63.3%	16.9%	12.5%	7.2%
Did not have someone to go hunting with	62.7%	16.8%	15.8%	4.7%
Illness/injury kept me form going	75.2%	3.1%	7.2%	14.5%
Was not living in South Dakota at the time	85.8%	1.3%	1.3%	11.7%
Did not have a hunting dog to go hunting	81.2%	8.3%	6.4%	4.1%
School obligations kept me from going	89.1%	3.5%	1.9%	5.4%
Military obligations kept me from going	92.4%	1.0%	1.0%	5.7%
Was under license revocation	97.8%	1.0%	0.0%	1.3%
Was not old enough	98.4%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%

¹Importance Scale: 0=Not a Reason; 1=Slight; 2=Moderately; 3=Very Important Reason

Appendix B – Table 16. Mean importance of pheasant hunting analyzed by resident license type (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Resident License Type	Importance of Pheasant Hunting ¹	95% Confidence Interval	Number
Small Game License	2.24	2.17 – 2.32	765
Combination License	2.22	2.16 – 2.29	920
Average	2.23	2.18 – 2.28	1,685
ANOVA: F=0.158; df=1/1,683; p=0.691			

¹Importance scale → 4=Most Important, 3=Very, 2=Moderately, 1-Slightly, 0=Not Important

Appendix B – Table 17. Mean number of years hunting pheasants in South Dakota during the past 5 seasons (2004–2008) (excludes hunters with 0 or only 1 year of pheasant hunting experience) analyzed by importance of pheasant hunting (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Importance of Pheasant Hunting	Mean Number of Years Hunted (2004–2008) ¹	95% Confidence Interval	Number
Most Important	4.77 _a	4.64 – 4.90	147
Very Important	4.67 _a	4.60 – 4.74	584
Moderately Important	4.11 _b	4.00 – 4.22	527
Slightly Important	3.64 _c	3.44 – 3.84	241
Not Important or No Opinion	2.72 _d	2.37 – 3.07	107
Average	4.21	4.14 – 4.28	1,606
ANOVA: F=81.667; df=4/1,601; p<0.001			

¹Means with similar subscripts are statistically similar (Posthoc=Tukey HSD; α=0.05).

Appendix B – Table 18. Mean importance of pheasant hunting analyzed by level of pheasant hunting experience (years) (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Total Years of Pheasant Hunting Experience	Importance of Pheasant Hunting ²	95% Confidence Interval	Number
1 year	1.64 _a	1.43 – 1.85	83
2 – 3 years	1.70 _a	1.50 – 1.91	104
4 – 5 years	1.87 _{a,b}	1.66 – 2.08	92
6 – 10 years	2.08 _{b,c}	1.93 – 2.22	217
11 – 20 years	2.22 _c	2.11 – 2.33	345
21 – 30 years	2.29 _c	2.17 – 2.40	287
31 or more years	2.52 _d	2.44 – 2.60	561
Average	2.23	2.18 – 2.25	1,689
ANOVA: F=20.074; df=6/1,682; p<0.001			

¹Means with similar subscripts are statistically similar (Posthoc=Tukey HSD; α=0.05).

²Importance scale → 4=Most Important, 3=Very, 2=Moderately, 1-Slightly, 0=Not Important

Appendix B – Table 19. Substitutes for pheasant hunting: *Considering all of your outdoor recreational activities, how many substitutes do you have for pheasant hunting? In other words, if you could not participate in pheasant hunting, how many other different outdoor recreational activities are there that you enjoy doing just about as much or more?*

Number of Substitutes for Pheasant Hunting	Number	Percent
I have no substitutes for pheasant hunting	169	9.9%
I have a few (1–2) substitutes for pheasant hunting	707	41.4%
I have some (3–4) substitutes for pheasant hunting	536	31.4%
I have many (5 or more) substitutes for pheasant hunting	226	13.2%
No Opinion	69	4.0%
Total	1,707	100%

Appendix B – Table 20. Mean number of substitutes for pheasant hunting analyzed by level of pheasant hunting experience (years) (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Total Years of Pheasant Hunting Experience	Number of Substitutes for Pheasant Hunting ¹	95% Confidence Interval	Number
1 year	1.62	1.44 – 1.80	81
2 – 3 years	1.77	1.61 – 1.93	101
4 – 5 years	1.70	1.52 – 1.87	92
6 – 10 years	1.56	1.44 – 1.67	215
11 – 20 years	1.57	1.47 – 1.66	337
21 – 30 years	1.48	1.38 – 1.58	276
31 or more years	1.34	1.27 – 1.41	529
Average	1.50	1.46 – 1.54	1,631
ANOVA: F=6.575; df=6/1,624; $p<0.001$			

¹Substitutes scale: 0=no substitutes; 1=a few (1–2); 2=some (3–4); 3=many (5 or more)

Appendix B – Table 21. Mean importance of pheasant hunting analyzed by substitutes for pheasant hunting (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Substitutes for Pheasant Hunting (scale)	Importance of Pheasant Hunting ¹	95% Confidence Interval	Number
no substitutes (0)	2.90	2.75 – 3.04	165
a few (1–2) substitutes (1)	2.45	2.38 – 2.52	702
some (3–4) substitutes (2)	2.05	1.97 – 2.13	530
many (5 or more) substitutes (3)	1.66	1.51 – 1.80	221
Average	2.26	2.21 – 2.31	1,618
ANOVA: F=68.836; df=6/1,614; $p<0.001$			

¹Importance scale → 4=Most Important, 3=Very, 2=Moderately, 1=Slightly, 0=Not Important

Motivations Related to Pheasant Hunting in South Dakota:

Appendix B – Tables 22A–22G.

Reasons for liking deer hunting– People enjoy pheasant hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to pheasant hunt in South Dakota.

Appendix B – Table 22-A. Importance of reason: To bring meat home for food (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

IMPORTANCE SCALE	MEAT	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	306	18.0%
1	266	15.7%
2	281	16.6%
3	252	14.9%
4	241	14.2%
5	188	11.1%
6	75	4.4%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	87	5.1%
TOTAL	1,696	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	2.68	2.58 – 2.78

Appendix B – Table 22-B. Importance of reason: To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

IMPORTANCE SCALE	NATURE	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	18	1.1%
1	8	0.5%
2	33	1.9%
3	91	5.4%
4	184	10.8%
5	383	22.5%
6	459	27.0%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	524	30.8%
TOTAL	1,700	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	5.54	5.47 – 5.61

Appendix B – Table 22-C. Importance of reason: For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you flush a pheasant, etc. (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

IMPORTANCE SCALE	EXCITEMENT	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	21	1.2%
1	15	0.9%
2	42	2.5%
3	109	6.4%
4	220	12.9%
5	365	21.4%
6	443	26.0%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	488	28.7%
TOTAL	1,703	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	5.41	5.33 – 5.48

Appendix B – Table 22-D. Importance of reason: Enjoying the time spent with friends/family (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

IMPORTANCE SCALE	SOCIAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	12	0.7%
1	12	0.7%
2	13	0.8%
3	39	2.3%
4	92	5.4%
5	219	12.9%
6	457	26.8%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	860	50.5%
TOTAL	1,704	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	6.09	6.03 – 6.15

Appendix B – Table 22-E. Importance of reason: To demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment and for the challenges associated with pheasant hunting (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

IMPORTANCE SCALE	CHALLENGE	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	117	6.9%
1	102	6.0%
2	185	10.9%
3	294	17.4%
4	311	18.4%
5	312	18.4%
6	206	12.2%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	166	9.8%
TOTAL	1,693	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	3.87	3.78 – 3.97

Appendix B – Table 22-F. Importance of reason: To spend time alone in the outdoors (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

IMPORTANCE SCALE	SOLITUDE	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	267	15.8%
1	165	9.7%
2	193	11.4%
3	219	12.9%
4	225	13.3%
5	221	13.0%
6	196	11.6%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	208	12.3%
TOTAL	1,694	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	3.45	3.34 – 3.56

Appendix B – Table 22-G. Importance of reason: Enjoying the time and challenges of working with your hunting dog(s) (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

IMPORTANCE SCALE	DOG(S)	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	650	38.9%
1	149	8.9%
2	89	5.3%
3	113	6.8%
4	128	7.7%
5	130	7.8%
6	162	9.7%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	250	15.0%
TOTAL	1,671	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	2.72	2.59 – 2.85

Appendix B – Table 23. Mean importance ratings for the seven reasons for liking South Dakota bird hunting (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

REASON FOR LIKING SD PHEASANT HUNTING	MEAN IMPORTANCE RATING	95% C.I.
Social	6.09	6.03 – 6.15
Nature	5.54	5.47 – 5.61
Excitement	5.41	5.33 – 5.48
Challenge	3.87	3.78 – 3.97
Solitude	3.45	3.34 – 3.56
Dog(s)	2.72	2.59 – 2.85
Meat	2.68	2.58 – 2.78

Appendix B – Table 24. Main reason for 2008 South Dakota bird hunters – *Overall, which statement above best describes the most important reason for why you like South Dakota pheasant hunting?*

TOP REASON	NUMBER	PERCENT
Enjoying the time spent with friends/family (Social)	872	51.3%
To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area (Nature)	335	19.7%
For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you flush a pheasant, etc. (Excitement)	249	14.6%
Enjoying the time and challenges of working with your hunting dog(s) (Dogs)	115	6.8%
To spend time alone in the outdoors (Solitude)	52	3.1%
To bring meat home for food (Meat)	41	2.4%
To demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment and for the challenges associated with pheasant hunting (Challenge)	36	2.1%
TOTAL	1,700	100%

Appendix B – Table 25. Mean number of years hunting pheasants in South Dakota during the past 5 seasons (2004–2008) (excludes hunters with 0 or only 1 year of pheasant hunting experience) analyzed by motivational type of pheasant hunter (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Motivational Type of Pheasant Hunter	Mean Number of Years Hunted (2004–2008)	95% Confidence Interval	Number
Meat	3.61	3.00 – 4.21	38
Solitude	3.88	3.39 – 4.36	48
Nature	4.01	3.85 – 4.17	317
Excitement	4.07	3.89 – 4.25	239
Challenge	4.22	3.79 – 4.65	32
Social	4.34	4.25 – 4.42	824
Dogs	4.72	4.56 – 4.87	113
Average	4.23	4.16 – 4.29	1,611
ANOVA: F=7.610; df=6/1,604; $p<0.001$			

Appendix B – Table 26. Importance of pheasant hunting analyzed by motivational type of pheasant hunter (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Motivational Type of Pheasant Hunter	Importance of Pheasant Hunting ¹	95% Confidence Interval	Number
Solitude	1.78	1.43 – 2.13	50
Nature	2.09	1.98 – 2.20	332
Social	2.18	2.11 – 2.25	863
Meat	2.20	1.83 – 2.56	41
Excitement	2.43	2.31 – 2.56	244
Challenge	2.44	2.15 – 2.74	36
Dogs	2.82	2.64 – 2.99	114
Average	2.24	2.19 – 2.29	1,680
ANOVA: F=11.002; df=6/1,673; $p<0.001$			

¹Importance scale → see Table 16

Appendix B – Table 27. Correlation between importance of pheasant hunting with each of the ratings for the seven motivational reasons for liking pheasant hunting (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Motivations for Pheasant Hunting	Importance of Pheasant Hunting ¹	<i>p</i> -value	Number
	Pearson Correlation		
Meat	0.213	<0.001	1,675
Solitude	0.243	<0.001	1,673
Social	0.251	<0.001	1,683
Nature	0.257	<0.001	1,679
Dogs	0.363	<0.001	1,651
Challenge	0.389	<0.001	1,672
Excitement	0.411	<0.001	1,682

¹Importance scale → 4=Most Important, 3=Very, 2=Moderately, 1-Slightly, 0=Not Important

Appendix B – Table 28. Mean number of substitutes for pheasant hunting analyzed by motivational type of pheasant hunter (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Motivations for Pheasant Hunting	Number of Substitutes for Pheasant Hunting ¹	95% Confidence Interval	Number
Dogs	1.35	1.19 – 1.50	113
Challenge	1.38	1.10 – 1.65	32
Excitement	1.43	1.31 – 1.54	243
Social	1.48	1.42 – 1.54	831
Solitude	1.50	1.24 – 1.76	46
Meat	1.51	1.25 – 1.78	39
Nature	1.67	1.58 – 1.77	322
Average	1.50	1.46 – 1.54	1,626

ANOVA: F=3.322; df=6/1,619; *p*=0.003

¹Substitutes scale: 0=no substitutes; 1=a few (1–2); 2=some (3–4); 3=many (5 or more)

2008 Pheasant Hunting Season

Appendix B – Table 29. Number of days pheasant hunting and birds harvested by resident hunters in South Dakota in 2008 (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Days Hunted	Number of Hunters	Percent	Birds Harvested	Number of Hunters	Percent
1	114	7.5%	0	147	9.8%
2	269	17.6%	1	78	5.2%
3	175	11.5%	2	85	5.7%
4	153	10.0%	3	103	6.9%
5	163	10.7%	4	78	5.2%
6	98	6.4%	5	62	4.1%
7	58	3.8%	6	171	11.4%
8	68	4.5%	7	33	2.2%
9	24	1.6%	8	44	2.9%
10	126	8.3%	9	67	4.5%
11 – 15	116	7.6%	10	111	7.4%
16 – 20	84	5.5%	11 – 15	213	14.2%
21 – 30	55	3.6%	16 – 20	108	7.2%
31 – 40	12	0.8%	21 – 30	113	7.6%
40+	10	0.7%	31+	82	5.5%
Total	1,525	100%	Total	1,495	100%
Median	5.00		Median	7.00	
Mean	7.44		Mean	11.51	
95% C.I.	7.05 – 7.83		95% C.I.	10.70 – 12.33	
Range	1 – 70 Days		Range	0 – 250	

Appendix B – Table 30. Which county did you hunt for pheasants most often (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008)?

County	Pheasant Hunting – 2008	
	Number	Percent
1. Minnehaha	48	3.3%
2. Pennington	5	0.3%
3. Brown	69	4.7%
4. Beadle	56	3.8%
5. Codington	29	2.0%
6. Brookings	56	3.8%
7. Yankton	26	1.8%
8. Davison	32	2.2%
9. Lawrence	0	0.0%
10. Aurora	46	3.1%
11. Bennett	8	0.5%
12. Bon Homme	14	1.0%
13. Brule	37	2.5%
14. Buffalo	6	0.4%
15. Butte	3	0.2%
16. Campbell	18	1.2%
17. Charles Mix	47	3.2%
18. Clark	37	2.5%
19. Clay	20	1.4%
20. Corson	7	0.5%
21. Custer	4	0.3%
22. Day	21	1.4%
23. Deuel	17	1.2%
24. Dewey	8	0.5%
25. Douglas	15	1.0%
26. Edmunds	35	2.4%
27. Fall River	9	0.6%
28. Faulk	24	1.6%
29. Grant	12	0.8%
30. Gregory	25	1.7%
31. Haakon	10	0.7%
32. Hamlin	20	1.4%

Table continued...

Appendix B – Table 30 - Continued. Which county did you hunt for pheasants most often (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008)?

County	Pheasant Hunting – 2008	
	Number	Percent
33. Hand	50	3.4%
34. Hanson	13	0.9%
35. Harding	1	0.1%
36. Hughes	33	2.2%
37. Hutchinson	19	1.3%
38. Hyde	13	0.9%
39. Jackson	2	0.1%
40. Jerauld	13	0.9%
41. Jones	13	0.9%
42. Kingsbury	39	2.7%
43. Lake	34	2.3%
44. Lincoln	28	1.9%
45. Lyman	39	2.7%
46. McCook	34	2.3%
47. McPherson	12	0.8%
48. Marshall	14	1.0%
49. Meade	1	0.1%
50. Mellette	6	0.4%
51. Miner	46	3.1%
52. Moody	15	1.0%
53. Perkins	13	0.9%
54. Potter	21	1.4%
55. Roberts	18	1.2%
56. Sanborn	23	1.6%
57. Spink	46	3.1%
58. Stanley	15	1.0%
59. Sully	29	2.0%
60. Tripp	44	3.0%
61. Turner	25	1.7%
62. Union	14	1.0%
63. Walworth	25	1.7%
64. Ziebach	3	0.2%
65. Shannon	0	0.0%
67. Todd	2	0.1%
Total	1,467	100%

Appendix B – Table 31. Percent of hunters that do most of their pheasant hunting in the county where they live (2003 and 2008).

Hunt most often in county where they live.	2003	2008
NO	50.3%	51.9%
YES	49.7%	48.1%
Total	1,669	1,418

Appendix B – Table 32. Type of land hunted in South Dakota in 1999, 2000, 2003, 2005 and 2008 by resident pheasant hunters.

Type of Land Hunted	Pheasant Hunters				
	1999	2000	2003	2005	2008
Private Land – no fees		62.1%	67.1%		66.9%
Private land – fees charged		4.5%	3.6%		3.8%
Private Shooting Preserve		1.3%	1.5%		1.9%
Private land	69.5%	[67.9%]	[72.2%]	69.3%	[72.6%]
Public Land	8.7%	9.4%	9.8%	8.0%	9.0%
Walk-In Areas	7.4%	6.1%	5.6%	10.1%	6.0%
Road Rights-of-Ways	14.4%	16.2%	12.7%	12.7%	12.4%
Sample Size	2,605	1,230	1,727	1,370	1,527

Appendix B – Table 33. Difficulty of finding places to pheasant hunt compared to previous years (measured in 2003 and 2008): *Compared to all your previous years of pheasant hunting in South Dakota, how easy or difficult was it to find good places to pheasant hunt this year?*

Evaluation of Finding Good Places to Pheasant Hunt (scale)	2003	2008
Very Easy (+3)	16.2%	16.2%
Moderately Easy (+2)	15.5%	10.9%
Slightly Easy (+1)	7.3%	5.3%
Average (0)	26.9%	29.3%
Slightly Difficult (-1)	10.5%	10.8%
Moderately Difficult (-2)	9.2%	12.9%
Very Difficult (-3)	9.4%	7.3%
No Opinion (missing)	4.9%	7.4%
Sample Size	1,730	1,516
Mean	0.31	0.19
95% C.I.	0.22 – 0.45	0.09 – 0.29

Appendix B – Table 34. Average rating of pheasant numbers rated by resident hunters in 2000, 2003 and 2008.

Rating of Pheasant Abundance (scale)	2000	2003	2008
Very Abundant (4)	10.6%	14.0%	14.8%
Abundant (3)	30.8%	37.4%	36.7%
Average (2)	38.7%	35.6%	35.6%
Scarce (1)	15.4%	9.7%	9.5%
Very Scarce (0)	4.5%	3.4%	3.4%
Sample Size	1,227	1,721	1,511
Mean	2.28	2.49	2.50
95% C.I.	2.22 – 2.33	2.44 – 2.53	2.45 – 2.55

Appendix B – Table 35. Resident hunters' satisfaction with their 2000, 2003 and 2008 pheasant hunting experiences.

Satisfaction (scale)	2000	2003	2008
Very Satisfied (+3)	24.7%	32.8%	30.4%
Moderately Satisfied (+2)	25.3%	33.9%	31.5%
Slightly Satisfied (+1)	11.7%	14.0%	11.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	23.3%	6.9%	11.5%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	7.6%	7.3%	7.7%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	3.2%	2.5%	3.5%
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	4.1%	2.7%	3.4%
Sample Size	1,347	1,731	1,523
Mean	1.10	1.60	1.41
95% C.I.	1.01 – 1.19	1.53 – 1.67	1.33 – 1.49
SUMMARIZED RESULTS			
SATISFIED	61.8%	80.6%	73.8%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	23.3%	6.9%	11.5%
DISSATISFIED	14.9%	12.5%	14.7%
Ratio: Satisfied to Dissatisfied	4.1 to 1	6.5 to 1	5.0 to 1

Duck Hunting

Appendix B – Table 36. Duck hunting experiences in South Dakota by resident hunters with a Small Game License or Combination License, but no 2008 Migratory Bird Certification.

Duck Hunting Experience	Number	Percent
Never hunted ducks in SD	808	46.5%
Hunted ducks in SD in the past, but not in 2008	882	50.7%
Hunted ducks in SD in 2008	49	2.8%
Total	1,739	100%

Never Duck Hunted [Tables 37 – 39]

Appendix B – Tables 37-A – 37-G Hunters' (that have never duck hunted) impressions of duck hunting in South Dakota.

Appendix B – Table 37-A. Opinion: Duck hunting is too expensive.

Opinion (scale)	Duck hunting is too expensive.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	59	8.0%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	49	6.7%
Neutral (0)	314	42.7%
Slightly Agree (+1)	72	9.8%
Strongly Agree (+2)	54	7.3%
No Opinion (missing)	187	25.4%
Total	735	100%
Mean	0.02	
95% C.I.	-0.06 – 0.11	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	108	14.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	501	68.2%
AGREE	126	17.1%

Appendix B – Table 37-B. Opinion: I think that I would enjoy duck hunting.

Opinion (scale)	I think that I would enjoy duck hunting.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	43	5.9%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	66	9.0%
Neutral (0)	182	24.8%
Slightly Agree (+1)	217	29.6%
Strongly Agree (+2)	124	16.9%
No Opinion (missing)	102	13.9%
Total	734	100%
Mean	0.50	
95% C.I.	0.41 – 0.58	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	109	14.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	284	38.7%
AGREE	341	46.5%

Appendix B – Table 37-C. Opinion: Duck hunting regulations are too complex.

Opinion (scale)	Duck hunting regulations are too complex.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	33	4.5%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	37	5.1%
Neutral (0)	316	43.2%
Slightly Agree (+1)	78	10.7%
Strongly Agree (+2)	70	9.6%
No Opinion (missing)	197	26.9%
Total	731	100%
Mean	0.22	
95% C.I.	0.13 – 0.30	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	70	9.6%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	513	70.2%
AGREE	148	20.2%

Appendix B – Table 37-D. Opinion: Duck hunting sounds too difficult.

Opinion (scale)	Duck hunting sounds too difficult.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	84	11.5%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	112	15.3%
Neutral (0)	285	39.0%
Slightly Agree (+1)	72	9.8%
Strongly Agree (+2)	20	2.7%
No Opinion (missing)	158	21.6%
Total	731	100%
Mean	-0.29	
95% C.I.	-0.37 – -0.21	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	196	26.8%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	443	60.6%
AGREE	92	12.6%

Appendix B – Table 37-E. Opinion: I don't think that I would ever find the time to go duck hunting.

Opinion (scale)	I don't think that I would ever find the time to go duck hunting.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	62	8.5%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	104	14.2%
Neutral (0)	254	34.7%
Slightly Agree (+1)	98	13.4%
Strongly Agree (+2)	87	11.9%
No Opinion (missing)	128	17.5%
Total	733	100%
Mean	0.07	
95% C.I.	-0.02 – 0.16	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	166	22.6%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	382	52.1%
AGREE	185	25.2%

Appendix B – Table 37-F. Opinion: It is too difficult to find places to go duck hunting.

Opinion (scale)	It is too difficult to find places to go duck hunting.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	62	8.5%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	70	9.6%
Neutral (0)	211	28.9%
Slightly Agree (+1)	140	19.2%
Strongly Agree (+2)	82	11.2%
No Opinion (missing)	166	22.7%
Total	731	100%
Mean	0.19	
95% C.I.	0.10 – 0.29	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	132	18.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	377	51.6%
AGREE	222	30.4%

Appendix B – Table 37-G. Opinion: I think it would be too difficult to learn how to identify ducks in flight.

Opinion (scale)	I think it would be too difficult to learn how to identify ducks in flight.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	79	10.8%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	98	13.4%
Neutral (0)	204	27.8%
Slightly Agree (+1)	137	18.7%
Strongly Agree (+2)	81	11.1%
No Opinion (missing)	134	18.3%
Total	733	100%
Mean	0.07	
95% C.I.	-0.03 – 0.17	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	177	24.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	338	46.1%
AGREE	218	29.7%

Appendix B – Table 38. Pheasant hunters' (that have never duck hunted) likelihood of going duck hunting in South Dakota in the future.

Likelihood of Duck Hunting in the Future (scale)	Small Game		Combination		Combined Sample ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Definitely Not (0)	80	21.3%	78	20.0%	158	20.6%
Probably Not (1)	151	40.2%	149	38.2%	301	39.2%
Not Sure (2)	110	29.3%	116	29.7%	226	29.5%
Probably Yes (3)	30	8.0%	39	10.0%	69	9.0%
Definitely Yes (4)	5	1.3%	8	2.1%	13	1.7%
Total	376	100%	390	100%	767	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=1.809$; df=4; $p=0.771$						
Mean	1.28		1.36		1.32	
95% C.I.	1.18 – 1.37		1.26 – 1.46		1.25 – 1.39	
ANOVA: $F=1.333$; df=1/764; $p=0.249$						

¹Includes one return without a survey ID # used to determine license type.

Appendix B – Table 39. Pheasant hunters' (that have never duck hunted) interest in a free, 1-day workshop to learn about duck hunting.

Interest in a Duck Hunting Workshop (scale)	Small Game		Combination		Combined Sample ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very (3)	23	6.3%	27	7.0%	50	6.7%
Moderately (2)	41	11.2%	48	12.5%	89	11.9%
Slightly (1)	91	24.9%	75	19.6%	166	22.1%
Not Interested (0)	181	49.6%	196	51.2%	378	50.4%
No Opinion (0)	29	7.9%	37	9.7%	67	8.9%
Total	365	100%	383	100%	750	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=3.548$; $df=4$; $p=0.471$						
Mean	0.66		0.66		0.66	
95% C.I.	0.57 – 0.76		0.56 – 0.75		0.59 – 0.73	

¹Includes two returns without a survey ID # used to determine license type.

Past and Current Duck Hunters [Tables 40 – 46]

Appendix B – Table 40. Years of South Dakota duck hunting experience.

Years of Duck Hunting Experience	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	61	7.2%	2	4.2%	63	7.1%
2 – 3	173	20.5%	5	10.4%	178	20.0%
4 – 5	169	20.0%	3	6.3%	172	19.3%
6 – 10	187	22.2%	7	14.6%	194	21.7%
11 – 20	141	16.7%	13	27.1%	154	17.3%
21 – 30	70	8.3%	7	14.6%	77	8.6%
31 or more	43	5.1%	11	22.9%	54	6.1%
Total	844	100%	48	100%	892	100%
Mean	11.0		19.9		11.5	
95% C.I.	10.2 – 11.7		15.5 – 24.3		10.7 – 12.2	
Median	6.00		16.50		7.00	
ANOVA: F=28.221; df=1/890; <i>p</i> <0.001						

Appendix B – Table 41. Years of duck hunting during the previous five years (2003–2007).

	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
Year Hunted	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2003	200	22.7%	37	75.5%	237	25.5%
2004	160	18.1%	38	77.6%	198	21.3%
2005	125	14.2%	38	77.6%	163	17.5%
2006	91	10.3%	36	73.5%	127	13.6%
2007	68	7.7%	39	79.6%	107	11.5%
Total Cases	882	73.0%	49	383.8%	931	89.4%
Number of Years Hunted (2003 - 2007)	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	607	68.8%	3	6.1%	610	65.5%
1	100	11.3%	4	8.2%	104	11.2%
2	74	8.4%	5	10.2%	79	8.5%
3	48	5.4%	4	8.2%	52	5.6%
4	18	2.0%	3	6.1%	21	2.3%
5	35	4.0%	30	61.2%	65	7.0%
Total	882	100%	49	100%	931	100%
Mean	0.72		3.84		0.89	
95% C.I.	0.64 – 0.81		3.35 – 4.32		0.79 – 0.99	
ANOVA: F=250.917; df=1/929; $p<0.001$						

Appendix B – Table 42. Duck hunting in another state other than South Dakota.

Duck Hunting in Another State?	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	739	86.5%	40	83.3%	779	86.4%
YES	115	13.5%	8	16.7%	123	13.6%
Total	854	100%	48	100%	902	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=0.395$; $df=1$; $p=0.530$						

Appendix B – Table 43. How important is **duck** hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation, including other types of hunting analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008)?

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Most (4)	3	0.3%	1	2.1%	4	0.4%
Very (3)	12	1.4%	13	27.1%	25	2.7%
Moderately (2)	80	9.2%	18	37.5%	98	10.7%
Slightly (1)	246	28.4%	12	25.0%	258	28.2%
Not (0)	483	55.7%	4	8.3%	487	53.2%
No Opinion (0)	43	5.0%	0	0.0%	43	4.7%
Total	867	100%	48	100%	915	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=168.770$; $df=5$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	0.52		1.90		0.60	
95% C.I.	0.47 – 0.57		1.61 – 2.18		0.54 – 0.65	
ANOVA: $F=147.874$; $df=1/913$; $p<0.001$						

Appendix B – Tables 44-A – 44-E

Past and current duck hunters' impressions of duck hunting in South Dakota.

Appendix B – Table 44-A. Opinion: Duck hunting is too expensive.

Opinion (scale)	Duck hunting is too expensive.					
	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	66	7.8%	2	4.2%	68	7.6%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	91	10.8%	7	14.6%	98	11.0%
Neutral (0)	331	39.1%	19	39.6%	350	39.1%
Slightly Agree (+1)	159	18.8%	15	31.3%	174	19.5%
Strongly Agree (+2)	92	10.9%	3	6.3%	95	10.6%
No Opinion (missing)	107	12.6%	2	4.2%	109	12.2%
Total	846	100%	48	100%	894	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=8.613$; $df=5$; $p=0.126$						
Mean	0.16		0.22		0.17	
95% C.I.	0.08 – 0.24		-0.06 – 0.50		0.09 – 0.24	
ANOVA: $F=0.114$; $df=1/783$; $p=0.736$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
DISAGREE	157	18.6%	9	18.8%	166	18.6%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	438	51.8%	21	43.8%	459	51.3%
AGREE	251	29.7%	18	37.5%	269	30.1%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=1.496$; $df=2$; $p=0.473$						

Appendix B – Table 44-B. Opinion: Duck hunting regulations are too complex.

Opinion (scale)	Duck hunting regulations are too complex.					
	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	57	6.8%	4	8.3%	61	6.8%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	92	10.9%	2	4.2%	94	10.5%
Neutral (0)	283	33.5%	18	37.5%	301	33.7%
Slightly Agree (+1)	176	20.9%	18	37.5%	194	21.7%
Strongly Agree (+2)	127	15.0%	4	8.3%	131	14.7%
No Opinion (missing)	109	12.9%	2	4.2%	111	12.2%
Total	844	100%	48	100%	892	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=12.306$; $df=5$; $p=0.031$						
Mean	0.30		0.35		0.31	
95% C.I.	0.22 – 0.39		0.05 – 0.65		0.23 – 0.39	
ANOVA: $F=0.064$; $df=1/779$; $p=0.801$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
DISAGREE	149	17.7%	6	12.5%	155	17.4%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	392	46.4%	20	41.7%	412	46.2%
AGREE	303	35.9%	22	45.8%	325	36.4%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=2.149$; $df=2$; $p=0.342$						

Appendix B – Table 44-C. Opinion: Duck hunting is difficult.

Opinion (scale)	Duck hunting is difficult.					
	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	96	11.4%	7	14.6%	103	11.6%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	147	17.4%	12	25.0%	159	17.8%
Neutral (0)	295	35.0%	18	37.5%	313	35.1%
Slightly Agree (+1)	157	18.6%	8	16.7%	165	18.5%
Strongly Agree (+2)	63	7.5%	2	4.2%	65	7.3%
No Opinion (missing)	85	10.1%	1	2.1%	86	9.7%
Total	843	100%	48	100%	891	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=5.723$; $df=5$; $p=0.334$						
Mean	-0.07		-0.30		-0.09	
95% C.I.	-0.15 – 0.01		-0.61 – 0.01		-0.16 – -0.01	
ANOVA: $F=1.805$; $df=1/803$; $p=0.179$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
DISAGREE	243	28.8%	19	39.6%	262	29.4%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	380	45.1%	19	39.6%	399	44.8%
AGREE	220	26.1%	10	20.8%	230	25.8%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=2.581$; $df=2$; $p=0.275$						

Appendix B – Table 44-D. Opinion: It is difficult to find places to go duck hunting.

Opinion (scale)	It is difficult to find places to go duck hunting.					
	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	86	10.2%	10	20.8%	96	10.7%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	128	15.1%	8	16.7%	136	15.2%
Neutral (0)	197	23.3%	11	22.9%	208	23.2%
Slightly Agree (+1)	172	20.3%	12	25.0%	184	20.6%
Strongly Agree (+2)	170	20.1%	6	12.5%	176	19.7%
No Opinion (missing)	94	11.1%	1	2.1%	95	10.6%
Total	847	100%	48	100%	895	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=10.193$; $df=5$; $p=0.070$						
Mean	0.28		-0.09		0.26	
95% C.I.	0.19 – 0.37		-0.48 – 0.31		0.17 – 0.35	
ANOVA: $F=3.521$; $df=1/798$; $p=0.061$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
DISAGREE	214	25.3%	18	37.5%	232	25.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	291	34.4%	12	25.0%	303	33.9%
AGREE	342	40.4%	18	37.5%	360	40.2%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=3.891$; $df=2$; $p=0.143$						

Appendix B – Table 44-E. Opinion: I enjoy duck hunting.

Opinion (scale)	I enjoy duck hunting.					
	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	34	4.0%	1	2.1%	35	3.9%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	44	5.2%	0	0.0%	44	4.9%
Neutral (0)	255	30.0%	6	12.5%	261	29.1%
Slightly Agree (+1)	210	24.7%	6	12.5%	216	24.1%
Strongly Agree (+2)	220	25.9%	35	72.9%	255	28.4%
No Opinion (missing)	86	10.1%	0	0.0%	86	9.6%
Total	849	100%	48	100%	897	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=50.713$; $df=5$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	0.71		1.54		0.75	
95% C.I.	0.63 – 0.78		1.29 – 1.80		0.68 – 0.83	
ANOVA: $F=27.593$; $df=1/809$; $p<0.001$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
DISAGREE	78	9.2%	1	2.1%	79	8.3%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	341	40.2%	6	12.5%	347	38.7%
AGREE	430	50.6%	41	85.4%	471	52.5%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=22.051$; $df=5$; $p<0.001$						

Appendix B – Table 45. Past & Current Duck Hunters: Do you intend to hunt ducks in South Dakota or some other state in the future?

Intention to Hunt Ducks in the Future?	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	191	22.1%	0	0.0%	191	21.0%
Not Sure / Undecided	428	49.6%	8	16.7%	436	47.9%
Yes	244	28.3%	40	83.3%	284	31.2%
Total	863	100%	48	100%	911	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=65.143$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						

Appendix B – Table 46. Past & Current Duck Hunters: interest in a free, 1-day workshop to learn about duck hunting.

Interest in a Duck Hunting Workshop (scale)	Past Duck Hunter		Current Duck Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very (3)	54	6.2%	8	16.7%	62	6.8%
Moderately (2)	115	13.3%	5	10.4%	120	13.1%
Slightly (1)	195	22.5%	12	25.0%	207	22.7%
Not Interested (0)	424	49.0%	23	47.9%	447	49.0%
No Opinion (0)	77	8.9%	0	0.0%	77	8.4%
Total	865	100%	48	100%	913	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=11.968$; $df=4$; $p=0.018$						
Mean	0.68		0.96		0.69	
95% C.I.	0.62 – 0.74		0.63 – 1.29		0.63 – 0.75	
ANOVA: $F=4.039$; $df=1/911$; $p=0.045$						

Goose Hunting

Appendix B – Table 47. Goose hunting experiences in South Dakota by resident hunters with a Small Game License or Combination License, but no 2008 Migratory Bird Certification.

Goose Hunting Experience	Number	Percent
Never hunted geese in SD	852	49.7%
Hunted geese in SD in the past, but not in 2008	802	46.8%
Hunted geese in SD in 2008	60	3.5%
Total	1,714	100%

Never Goose Hunted [Tables 48 – 49]

Appendix B – Tables 48-A – 48-D Hunters' (that have never goose hunted) impressions of goose hunting in South Dakota.

Appendix B – Table 48-A. Opinion: Goose hunting is too expensive.

Opinion (scale)	Goose hunting is too expensive.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	48	6.2%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	67	8.6%
Neutral (0)	280	36.0%
Slightly Agree (+1)	104	13.4%
Strongly Agree (+2)	65	8.4%
No Opinion (missing)	213	27.4%
Total	777	100%
Mean	0.13	
95% C.I.	0.04 – 0.21	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	115	14.8%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	493	63.4%
AGREE	169	21.8%

Appendix B – Table 48-B. Opinion: I think that I would enjoy goose hunting.

Opinion (scale)	I think that I would enjoy goose hunting.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	32	4.1%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	45	5.8%
Neutral (0)	186	24.0%
Slightly Agree (+1)	252	32.5%
Strongly Agree (+2)	127	16.4%
No Opinion (missing)	134	17.3%
Total	776	100%
Mean	0.62	
95% C.I.	0.54 – 0.70	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	77	9.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	320	41.2%
AGREE	379	48.8%

Appendix B – Table 48-C. Opinion: Goose hunting sounds too difficult.

Opinion (scale)	Goose hunting sounds too difficult.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	78	10.1%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	147	18.9%
Neutral (0)	286	36.9%
Slightly Agree (+1)	68	8.8%
Strongly Agree (+2)	15	1.9%
No Opinion (missing)	182	23.5%
Total	776	100%
Mean	-0.35	
95% C.I.	-0.42 – -0.27	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	225	29.0%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	468	60.3%
AGREE	83	10.7%

Appendix B – Table 48-D. Opinion: It is too difficult to find places to go goose hunting.

Opinion (scale)	It is too difficult to find places to go goose hunting.	
	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-2)	55	7.1%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	68	8.8%
Neutral (0)	221	28.5%
Slightly Agree (+1)	154	19.9%
Strongly Agree (+2)	95	12.3%
No Opinion (missing)	182	23.5%
Total	775	100%
Mean	0.28	
95% C.I.	0.19 – 0.37	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	123	15.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	403	52.0%
AGREE	249	32.1%

Appendix B – Table 49. Pheasant hunters' (that have never goose hunted) likelihood of going goose hunting in South Dakota in the future.

Likelihood of Goose Hunting in the Future (scale)	Small Game		Combination		Combined Sample ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Definitely Not (0)	70	17.9%	59	14.6%	129	16.2%
Probably Not (1)	142	36.2%	134	33.1%	276	34.7%
Not Sure (2)	120	30.6%	139	34.3%	258	32.4%
Probably Yes (3)	53	13.5%	65	16.0%	118	14.8%
Definitely Yes (4)	7	1.8%	8	2.0%	15	1.9%
Total	392	100%	405	100%	796	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=3.640$; df=4; $p=0.457$						
Mean	1.45		1.58		1.52	
95% C.I.	1.35 – 1.55		1.48 – 1.68		1.45 – 1.58	
ANOVA: $F=3.242$; df=1/793; $p=0.072$						

¹Includes one return without a survey ID # used to determine license type.

Past and Current Goose Hunters [Tables 50 – 55]

Appendix B – Table 50. Years of South Dakota goose hunting experience.

Years of Goose Hunting Experience	Past Goose Hunter		Current Goose Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	55	7.1%	5	8.3%	60	7.2%
2 – 3	177	22.9%	5	8.3%	182	21.8%
4 – 5	150	19.4%	5	8.3%	155	18.6%
6 – 10	173	22.4%	13	21.7%	186	22.3%
11 – 20	125	16.2%	14	23.3%	139	16.7%
21 – 30	56	7.2%	9	15.0%	65	7.8%
31 or more	37	4.8%	9	15.0%	46	5.5%
Total	773	100%	60	100%	833	100%
Mean	10.4		15.9		10.8	
95% C.I.	9.6 – 11.1		12.7 – 19.1		10.0 – 11.5	
Median	6.00		12.50		6.00	
ANOVA: F=14.899; df=1/831; <i>p</i> <0.001						

Appendix B – Table 51. Years of goose hunting during the previous five years (2003 – 2007).

Year Hunted	Past Goose Hunter		Current Goose Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2003	229	28.6%	41	68.3%	270	31.3%
2004	187	23.3%	40	66.7%	227	26.3%
2005	135	16.8%	43	71.7%	178	20.6%
2006	116	14.5%	45	75.0%	161	18.7%
2007	73	9.1%	47	78.3%	120	13.9%
Total Cases	802	92.3%	60	360.0%	862	110.8%
Number of Years Hunted (2003 2007)	Past Goose Hunter		Current Goose Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	485	60.5%	8	13.3%	493	57.2%
1	116	14.5%	6	10.0%	122	14.2%
2	90	11.2%	6	10.0%	96	11.1%
3	43	5.4%	1	1.7%	44	5.1%
4	25	3.1%	0	0.0%	25	2.9%
5	43	5.4%	39	65.0%	82	9.5%
Total	802	100%	60	100%	862	100%
Mean	0.92		3.60		1.11	
95% C.I.	0.82 – 1.02		3.08 – 4.12		1.00 – 1.22	
ANOVA: F=181.921; df=1/860; <i>p</i> <0.001						

Appendix B – Table 52. Goose hunting in another state other than South Dakota.

Goose Hunting in Another State?	Past Goose Hunter		Current Goose Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	693	88.3%	51	86.4%	744	88.2%
YES	92	11.7%	8	13.6%	100	11.8%
Total	785	100%	59	100%	844	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=0.178$; df=1; $p=0.673$						

Appendix B – Table 53. Goose hunting strategies: “How do you usually hunt geese?”

Goose Hunting Strategies	Past Goose Hunter		Current Goose Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pass Shooting	289	38.2%	20	33.3%	309	37.8%
Field Decoys	320	42.3%	33	55.0%	353	43.2%
Floating Decoys	28	3.7%	5	8.3%	33	4.0%
Incidental	120	15.9%	2	3.3%	122	14.9%
Total	757	100%	60	100%	817	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=11.220$; df=3; $p=0.011$						

Appendix B – Table 54. How important is goose hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation, including other types of hunting analyzed by survey (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008)?

Importance of Goose Hunting (scale)	Past Goose Hunter		Current Goose Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Most (4)	3	0.4%	1	1.7%	4	0.5%
Very (3)	19	2.4%	18	30.0%	37	4.3%
Moderately (2)	135	17.0%	24	40.0%	159	18.7%
Slightly (1)	256	32.3%	14	23.3%	270	31.7%
Not (0)	343	43.3%	3	5.0%	346	40.6%
No Opinion (0)	36	4.5%	0	0.0%	36	4.2%
Total	792	100%	60	100%	852	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=139.865$; $df=5$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	0.75		2.00		0.84	
95% C.I.	0.69 – 0.81		1.77 – 2.23		0.78 – 0.90	
ANOVA: $F=120.010$; $df=1/850$; $p<0.001$						

Appendix B – Table 55. Past & Current Goose Hunters: Do you intend to hunt geese in South Dakota or some other state in the future?

Intention to Hunt Geese in the Future?	Past Goose Hunter		Current Goose Hunter		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	129	16.3%	2	3.3%	131	15.4%
Not Sure / Undecided	368	46.6%	7	11.7%	375	44.1%
Yes	293	37.1%	51	85.0%	344	40.5%
Total	790	100%	60	100%	850	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=53.150$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						

Waterfowl Hunters [Tables 56 – 63]

Appendix B – Table 56. Summary waterfowl hunting experience of 2008 resident Small Game and Combination License holders.

Hunting Experience	Number	Percent
Never Hunted Ducks or Geese	786	42.7%
Hunted Ducks in the Past / Never Hunted Geese	188	10.2%
Hunted Ducks in 2008 / Never Hunted Geese	5	0.3%
Hunted Geese in the Past / Never Hunted Ducks	119	6.5%
Hunted Ducks & Geese in the Past	671	36.4%
Hunted Ducks in 2008 / Hunted Geese in the Past	12	0.7%
Hunted Geese in 2008 / Never Hunted Ducks	5	0.3%
Hunted Geese in 2008 / Hunted Ducks in the Past	23	1.2%
Hunted Both Ducks & Geese in 2008	32	1.7%
Total	1,841	100%
SUMMARY RESULTS		
Hunting Experience	Number	Percent
Never Hunted Waterfowl (Ducks or Geese)	786	42.7%
Have Hunted Waterfowl (Ducks and/or Geese)	1,055	57.3%
Total	1,841	100%
SUMMARY RESULTS		
Hunting Experience	Number	Percent
Never Hunted Waterfowl (Ducks or Geese)	786	42.7%
Have Hunted Waterfowl (Ducks and/or Geese) in Past	978	53.1%
Hunted Waterfowl (Ducks and/or Geese) in 2008	77	4.2%
Total	1,841	100%
SUMMARY RESULTS		
Hunting Experience	Number	Percent
Never Hunted Waterfowl (Ducks or Geese)	786	42.7%
Hunted Ducks Only (Past and/or 2008)	193	10.5%
Hunted Geese Only (Past and/or 2008)	124	6.7%
Hunted Both Duck and Geese (Past and/or 2008)	738	40.1%
Total	1,841	100%

Appendix B – Table 57. Demographic description (age, gender, residence type) of 2008 resident Small Game and Combination License holders comparing waterfowl hunters (past and current) with non-waterfowl hunters.

Waterfowl Hunter Types	Mean Age (years)	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	43.5	42.4 – 44.6	755
Past Waterfowl Hunters	49.6	48.7 – 50.5	956
Current Waterfowl Hunters	42.0	38.7 – 45.3	77
Total	46.7	46.0 – 47.4	1,788
ANOVA: $F=42.982$; $df=2/1,785$; $p<0.001$			
Gender	Waterfowl Hunter Types		
	Never	Past	Current
Male	85.7%	97.6%	94.6%
Female	14.3%	2.4%	5.4%
Total	747	952	74
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=85.464$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$			
Waterfowl Hunter Types	Gender		
	Male	Female	
Never Hunted Waterfowl	39.0%	79.9%	
Past Waterfowl Hunters	56.7%	17.2%	
Current Waterfowl Hunters	4.3%	3.0%	
Total	1,639	134	
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=85.464$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$			
Waterfowl Hunter Types	Residence Type		
	Rural	Small Town	City
Never Hunted Waterfowl	40.3%	45.5%	41.0%
Past Waterfowl Hunters	55.0%	51.2%	54.2%
Current Waterfowl Hunters	4.7%	3.3%	4.7%
Total	578	521	697
ANOVA: $F=4.655$; $df=4$; $p=0.325$			

Appendix B – Table 58. Average number of years pheasant hunting during the past five years (2004–2008) analyzed by waterfowl hunter type (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Waterfowl Hunter Types	Mean Years of Pheasant Hunting	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	3.91	3.80 – 4.02	645
Past Waterfowl Hunters	4.35	4.27 – 4.43	951
Current Waterfowl Hunters	4.71	4.48 – 4.93	75
Total	4.20	4.13 – 4.26	1,671
ANOVA: F=26.619; df=2/1,668; $p<0.001$			

Appendix B – Table 59. Importance of pheasant hunting analyzed by waterfowl hunter type (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Waterfowl Hunter Types	Mean Importance	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	2.03	1.95 – 2.11	691
Past Waterfowl Hunters	2.33	2.27 – 2.40	929
Current Waterfowl Hunters	2.76	2.58 – 2.94	76
Total	2.23	2.18 – 2.28	1,696
ANOVA: F=28.247; df=2/1,693; $p<0.001$			
Importance (scale)	Waterfowl Hunter Types		
	Never	Past	Current
Most (4)	6.8%	9.9%	13.3%
Very (3)	27.1%	39.7%	56.6%
Moderately (2)	37.6%	30.0%	25.0%
Slightly (1)	19.2%	14.6%	3.9%
Not/No Opinion (0)	9.3%	5.7%	1.3%
Total	691	929	76
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=66.029$; df=8; $p<0.001$			

Appendix B – Table 60. Motivations for pheasant hunting analyzed by waterfowl hunter type (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Waterfowl Hunter Types	Social		
	Mean Importance	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	6.03	5.92 – 6.13	696
Past Waterfowl Hunters	6.13	6.06 – 6.21	931
Current Waterfowl Hunters	6.18	5.91 – 6.45	77
Total	6.09	6.03 – 6.15	1,704
ANOVA: F=1.641; df=2/1,701; $p=0.194$			
Waterfowl Hunter Types	Nature		
	Mean Importance	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	5.45	5.34 – 5.56	694
Past Waterfowl Hunters	5.60	5.51 – 5.69	929
Current Waterfowl Hunters	5.69	5.40 – 5.98	77
Total	5.54	5.47 – 5.61	1,700
ANOVA: F=2.550; df=2/1,697; $p=0.078$			
Waterfowl Hunter Types	Excitement		
	Mean Importance	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	5.32	5.20 – 5.44	695
Past Waterfowl Hunters	5.44	5.34 – 5.53	931
Current Waterfowl Hunters	5.79	5.51 – 6.08	77
Total	5.41	5.33 – 5.48	1,703
ANOVA: F=3.838; df=2/1,700; $p=0.022$			
Waterfowl Hunter Types	Meat		
	Mean Importance	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	2.73	2.57 – 2.89	690
Past Waterfowl Hunters	2.59	2.46 – 2.71	929
Current Waterfowl Hunters	3.39	2.98 – 3.80	77
Total	2.68	2.58 – 2.78	1,696
ANOVA: F=5.920; df=2/1,693; $p=0.003$			
Waterfowl Hunter Types	Challenge		
	Mean Importance	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	3.74	3.59 – 3.89	691
Past Waterfowl Hunters	3.91	3.97 – 4.04	925
Current Waterfowl Hunters	4.58	4.18 – 4.99	77
Total	3.87	3.78 – 3.97	1,693
ANOVA: F=6.990; df=2/1,690; $p=0.001$			

Continued on next page.

Appendix B – Table 60 Continued. Motivations for pheasant hunting analyzed by waterfowl hunter type (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Waterfowl Hunter Types	Solitude		
	Mean Importance	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	3.17	2.99 – 3.34	692
Past Waterfowl Hunters	3.58	3.44 – 3.73	925
Current Waterfowl Hunters	4.40	3.90 – 4.90	77
Total	3.45	3.34 – 3.56	1,694
ANOVA: F=13.319; df=2/1,691; $p<0.001$			
Waterfowl Hunter Types	Dogs		
	Mean Importance	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	2.35	2.15 – 2.54	684
Past Waterfowl Hunters	2.86	2.68 – 3.04	912
Current Waterfowl Hunters	4.47	3.89 – 5.04	75
Total	2.72	2.59 – 2.85	1,671
ANOVA: F=23.476; df=2/1,668; $p<0.001$			

Appendix B – Table 61. Main motivation (reason) for liking pheasant hunting analyzed by waterfowl hunter type (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

TOP REASON	Waterfowl Hunter Types		
	Never	Past	Current
Enjoying the time spent with friends/family (Social)	51.5%	51.9%	41.6%
To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area (Nature)	20.3%	19.3%	19.5%
For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you flush a pheasant, etc. (Excitement)	15.4%	14.0%	15.6%
Enjoying the time and challenges of working with your hunting dog(s) (Dogs)	4.6%	7.9%	11.7%
To spend time alone in the outdoors (Solitude)	4.1%	2.2%	3.9%
To bring meat home for food (Meat)	2.3%	2.4%	3.9%
To demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment and for the challenges associated with pheasant hunting (Challenge)	1.7%	2.2%	3.9%
TOTAL	689	934	77
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=18.346$; df=12; $p=0.106$			

Appendix B – Table 62. Average number of days of pheasant hunting in 2008 and mean satisfaction with the 2008 pheasant season analyzed by waterfowl hunter type (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Waterfowl Hunter Types	Mean Days of Pheasant Hunting in 2008	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	6.95	6.35 – 7.56	629
Past Waterfowl Hunters	7.32	6.80 – 7.83	821
Current Waterfowl Hunters	12.81	10.79 – 14.84	75
Total	7.44	7.05 – 7.83	1,525
ANOVA: F=19.832; df=2/1,522; $p<0.001$			

Appendix B – Table 63. Satisfaction with the 2008 pheasant season analyzed by waterfowl hunter type (South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008).

Waterfowl Hunter Types	Mean Satisfaction ¹ with the 2008 Pheasant Season	95% C.I.	Number
Never Hunted Waterfowl	1.37	1.24 – 1.49	630
Past Waterfowl Hunters	1.42	1.30 – 1.53	818
Current Waterfowl Hunters	1.71	1.36 – 2.05	75
Total	1.41	1.33 – 1.49	1,523
ANOVA: F=1.494; df=2/1,520; $p=0.225$			
Summarized Satisfaction	Waterfowl Hunter Types		
	Never	Past	Current
Dissatisfied	14.6%	14.9%	13.3%
Neutral/No Opinion	13.7%	10.5%	4.0%
Satisfied	71.7%	74.6%	82.7%
Total	630	818	75
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=8.250$; df=4; $p=0.083$			

¹Satisfaction scale: -3=Very Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 3=Very Satisfied

Appendix C. Optional comments provided by South Dakota adult, resident bird hunters at the end of their 2008 South Dakota bird hunter survey questionnaire.

ID: 11

The reason that numbers of pheasants seen and places to hunt was low was due to crops that were not harvested until too late in the season.

ID: 25

I would like to see the walk in areas that are larger than 40 acres to have some mowed strips through the grass areas to help thicken the grass as well as make it also accommodating for the smaller hunting groups.

ID: 34

I feel fortunate that for the last 15 years I have had private land to hunt and have been a landowner in South Dakota in the past. I do not do as much fowl hunting as when I was younger but plan to do more in the future in South Dakota and in other states.

ID: 46

I have heard confiscated game is used for the Game feed in Sioux Falls. I feel if this is true it needs to be stopped. It is wrong because some people don't process the meat properly and someone could get sick.

ID: 63

I hunt pheasants on CRP land of a friend. When this land goes out of CRP I will not have a place to hunt anymore. I dread that day.

ID: 70

I like to hunt. I did not have a lot of time to go hunting this year.

ID: 78

Hunting birds have decreased in the past 5 years at my location. I feel dove hunting ruins pheasants and deer hunting in my area. I live in Northeast corner of Lake County, too many college kids take over the area.

ID: 80

I don't hunt waterfowl anymore since steel shot is required and my gun is not designed for steel shot.

ID: 87

I'm in college now so I'm not too interested in hunting.

ID: 145

I hate surveys but understand their importance. Fees and regulations are getting to high and complex.

ID: 148

Spink County was very wet and a lot of crops were still in the fields for the Pheasant Opener making it difficult to get to the pheasants, once crops ere harvested it made it a lot easier to harvest pheasants.

ID: 157

Waterfowl licenses should be available over the counter to out of state hunters that want to hunt waterfowl and pheasants both, especially geese.

ID: 158

I think that pheasant limits should be increased.

ID: 160

I recently moved here from Nebraska and never witnessed so much road hunting in all my years of hunting. My 15 year old son and I watched some guy jump out of his truck, shoot a pheasant then chased it down. I saw several people shooting at deer that were 500 yards away from their vehicle, while my son and I were sitting there hoping to get our deer and we never did get one because of their unsportsmanlike like conduct. This was my son's first year to hunt after taking the hunter's safety course this fall. He was very upset and I was disappointed in the example of these men showed him.

ID: 163

I hunt pheasants with a girl and her dog, I mostly drop her off and she walks and pick her up at the end, I can't walk very far but a couple of times got one at the end.

ID: 165

I think the extension of the antelope season into January was wise allowing hunting in all four counties, I think doing the same for prairie deer so that licenses would be valid in all four of the counties instead of just the original designated area.

ID: 176

Our family enjoys all South Dakota has to offer but so many things to do takes time and if you live in Minnehaha you usually have to travel to another county to do anything else.

ID: 177

I enjoy hunting birds in South Dakota regardless of if I get a bird or not.

ID: 184

The wildlife refuge where we hunted was very well maintained. It was an excellent example of proper game management. The young officer that checked our license was professional and very friendly.

ID: 186

Pheasant numbers were down in my area, due to a wet spring which submerged many of the nesting areas. I don't hunt ducks or geese merely because I don't care for dark meat. If you won't eat it, don't kill it.

ID: 194

Hunting used to be less expensive but as land owners & the state become more involved they bring in more out of state hunters thus raising the price and pushing the middle class hunters out of hunting, maybe this is your point.

ID: 203

Please do not access an additional fee to hunters for money for roads unless it's to non-resident hunters. If I am charged an additional fee for hunting (road work) I may forgo hunting or hunt without a license.

ID: 231

Leased land hunting is becoming a problem, the pheasant populations were good. The walk-in areas are not as productive as in years past.

ID: 242

We would like to thank the Bessler Ranch for allowing public hunting on their ranch. My son, grandson and I enjoyed hunting there very much.

ID: 244

You need to plant more food plots on public land. I don't think it is right that farmers have there land in CRP which I (through taxes) pay for are not allowed to hunt on and they are allowed to lease the land to hunt on or operate those same CRP acres as a pay to hunt operations.

ID: 246

There still seems to be a lot of pheasants. What will happen when habitat is turned into ethanol fields?

ID: 250

It would be nice to see more corn fields placed on GFP lands to hold more birds on public lands, for pheasants and deer. As well as placing young birds on public land to reproduce. All the pheasant preserves are hurting most of the in-state hunters who just want a good place to hunt.

ID: 258

Hunting has become too commercialized.

ID: 261

Hunting rights go with the lease of the land. CRP is land leased from land owners to prevent them from farming this land. It should be illegal to charge a fee to hunt CRP. The hunting rights belong to the tax payers.

ID: 293

Something needs to be done about road hunters. As a landowner and as a cattle feeder, I am tired of people shooting next to my feedlot and house. There is no consideration given to road hunting rules. There needs to be more enforcement, and preferably road hunting needs to be made illegal.

ID: 297

Can you send me info on Bow hunting in SD and a list of dates on the Bow hunters safety classes.

ID: 303

I do not own a hunting dog. I got into bow hunting in 2000. I am having a great time bow hunting. I buy a pheasant license in case I get a shot at a rooster. Thanks for allowing me to participate in this survey.

ID: 316

It is almost impossible to road hunt and shoot a bird legally. Most farmers will not let you hunt free. Public areas are burned out after the first couple days. Even deer hunting has lost it's excitement after having a warden harass us for 2 days. Only fishing is till the great sport it used to be. I decided not to teach my grandson to hunt.

ID: 317

It's getting expensive and there are fewer places to hunt. Hunting is important to South Dakota and also gun rights are our given freedom. I support gun ownership.

ID: 318

I hope you don't lose too much CRP this year for the hunters, especially the out of state hunters. It would be tough on the economy, especially for the smaller rural communities.

ID: 322

Through the years there is becoming less and less public land to hunt. Every year you have to pay big money or know someone who has land to go hunting on. As for pheasant hunting is getting the same way, the big corporate people are buying SD land for out of state hunters that only they can use. They need to open more public land for people like me and my family.

ID: 344

This year of 2008, the pheasant hunts were so difficult due to lack of corn harvest which was an advantage for the pheasants to hide in or run around to avoid getting shot.

ID: 360

I have been around all types of bird hunting most of my life, it's been a family tradition going back to the early 1900's or earlier. I have seen pheasant hunting turn into a family sport for food & family time into "we have to get the out of state money in." Resident hunting licenses have dropped! I wonder why? It's all about the rich! Meanwhile, the SD resident has been reduced to road hunting and public walk in areas. After those walk ins have been gone through one time chances of getting a bird out of them are slim at best. There is a commercial on TV about hunting traditions passed on to younger generations. I can tell my boy you can have tradition but it will cost you \$100 to \$200 a day. Not very happy with our state in regards to bird hunting. I understand the state needs some of the monies produced by out of state hunters. They should be limited to one time every 3 years that they can get a license. Monies shouldn't come from booze & strippers.

ID: 361

I feel that over the past 5 years or so that pheasant hunting in South Dakota is becoming too privatized. It's getting harder to find good places to hunt if you don't have friends/family that has land to hunt on. I'm not against private parties who own land charging for hunting but it takes away from the rest of us who don't want to pay to hunt.

ID: 364

Access and opportunity—the commercialization of hunting and hunting access especially for pheasant hunting has already ruined my desire to hunt. Even the public hunting areas and walk-in areas are extensively used by "hunting guides" and commercial hunting businesses. Any "guide" or commercial hunting organization should be banned from showing clients public hunting or walk-in areas. They have their clients hunt these areas first and then proceed to hunt their locked in private hunting areas. Thus, even public and walk-in areas are flooded with commercial, aging customers.

The early weekend for residents only is a good idea but it's not enough. Commercial hunting business should have to pay state fees to guide on public and walk-in land.

ID: 381

I hardly ever hunt.

ID: 391

Pheasant hunting is too commercialized.

ID: 396

I appreciate all the available public land for hunting, especially the game production areas as that's where I find the most pheasants. I also appreciate being able to hunt road right of ways.

ID: 410

I have not hunted ducks or geese for over 40 years.

ID: 412

You do have too many rules; I have 40 acres not 160. Hunting around my place was good this year- lot's of pheasants but not as many deer as usual.

ID: 431

Game, Fish & Parks personnel should not have the right or privilege to enter private land in the country or city without a court order. Also, when driving my vehicle down public roads they should not be able to stop you without just cause.

ID: 435

I did a lot of ducks & geese hunting as a kid when I was growing up in SD.

ID: 439

There needs to be more land to hunt on the East River side and on west side the land needs more signs up for hunters so they know that it is available to walk in on.

ID: 454

With our wet fall most crops were still not harvested for the opening two weekends of the pheasant season. I think that provided for a much better late season hunt this year. The worst part of pheasant hunting in SD now is that every farmer wants \$100-\$150 per day per gun just to hunt on their land. The average SD hunter just can't afford that. The major problems with hunting public land is over crowding and the fact that public shooting areas aren't divided up so that smaller groups of hunters can have much success unless they have dogs.

ID: 469

I usually pheasant hunt more than I did in 2008 mostly on private land.

ID: 481

I have had very bad experiences with game wardens when duck hunting years ago. I thought they were total jerks, so I gave it up. All the rules & regulations were too much to keep up with and to understand. We need game wardens who act like public servants of the people instead of like robo-cops.

ID: 483

I don't hunt duck or geese.

ID: 493

Land owners should not be allowed to lease all the land to hunting groups for commercial use and keep AG status for property taxes.

ID: 495

The public land I pheasant hunted was around La Creek Refuge I don't the county.

ID: 502

I only spent 20 minutes total pheasant hunting this year, one road, 5 minutes and one public area for 15 minutes. I had very little time last year.

ID: 508

I would like to have more walk in areas.

ID: 509

There needs to be more CRP incentives for smaller land owners. We are being pushed out of our own back yard. There needs to a limit or cap on private preserves so it would leave more hunting opportunities for the local hunters. It's not all about the money.

ID: 518

I feel it is important to be able to share these experiences with our children and wish there was a way for our youth to have greater access to private land as public is being over-hunted.

ID: 521

My thing is bow hunting deer. It doesn't leave a lot of time open. I bow hunt an average of 20 days per year.

ID: 524

All hunting is too commercial and too highly regulated. It is getting to the point that it isn't worth it.

ID: 528

As I've gotten older, I've become more of a fair-weather hunter! I buy a license every year as much as to support the program, as to hunt. I've benefited from the sport for years.

ID: 538

We had a few issues finding a good place to hunt. It seemed anywhere that was good the people wanted money. The state should move more pheasants on to public land.

ID: 541

I used to hunt a lot in my younger years. I very seldom hunt anymore because of the difficulty of finding places to hunt. Farmers and landowners are wanting exuberant fees for hunting on their land and roadways. I find it disgusting that farmers and landowners will take CRP & government payments and turn around and hold out their hands for payments from hunters to hunt their farms too. I say that if farmers receive government payments, hunters should be able to hunt that land

which they get payments for. Keep this policy up and in a few years there won't be any more hunting. The out of state rich hunters have ruined it for the common outdoorsman. We can't afford the price of hunting anymore.

ID: 550

This is my 1st year of residency in South Dakota.

ID: 562

In 2009, pheasants seemed to be abundant in un-harvested corn fields but not easily found elsewhere.

ID: 569

Good luck.

ID: 570

I appreciate your desire to solicit this type of information. It shows you care what hunters think.

ID: 575

Pheasant hunting was very difficult most of the season due to a very late corn & flower harvest but the numbers of birds especially roosters are up. I question if the numbers of roosters still left out there is healthy for the hen population. A special season in February or March wouldn't hurt my feelings any.

ID: 580

I think it would be a great idea to have 2 weekends for residents only at the beginning of the season.

ID: 593

I would hunt waterfowl a lot more but by the time I buy a migratory bird license and waterfowl stamp I could just harvest pheasant, rabbit and squirrel all for one price. I wouldn't mind buying a waterfowl stamp if the migratory bird license was included in the small game license.

ID: 598

I hunted pheasants the first weekend in Davison County. I hunted hard and not many pheasants, 2 average per day hunting from noon until dark. I hunted 2, 3 & 4th weekend in Platte area and limited out within 2-3 hours.

ID: 608

I have multiple scoliosis which limits my mobility and enjoyment of the hunt.

ID: 639

I'm too old to hunt anymore!

ID: 646

The definitive reason I have not hunted ducks or geese in SD is simply that I do not particularly enjoy eating these birds. I am not against it or anything.

ID: 650

We have too many geese. I have a farm in Roberts County and they do a lot of damage. We need more out of state hunters. You should make it easier to get a license.

ID: 672

I started hunting with my father in 1939 pheasants only. I have hunted every year since except 45-46 when in the service, 67 years. I started hunting ducks after returning from the service. Geese in the 50's then Sand Lake was the place to go. After stocking the Giants in NE SD geese hunting was a rarity. I have had a great many very successful and enjoyable hunts. In the 90's I spent a lot of time hunting along the Missouri River. Hunting in the field is over for me, and as long as I can drive and find a pheasant along the road I will enjoy the recreation.

ID: 673

I thought bird numbers were not very good this year in McCook County.

ID: 674

In my over 40 years of pheasant hunting 2008 was the best year ever.

ID: 682

I have noticed that not all but some public land that I hunt around is getting kind of thin for pheasants it kind of seems like the ducks and geese are more important.

ID: 683

I enjoy hunting pheasants but found numbers to be way down everywhere we hunted. There were very few birds seen in 5 hunts. I haven't hunted ducks for several years mainly due to age.

ID: 701

I feel that South Dakota has the best hunting in the Midwest I enjoy very much living & hunting in this state. We do need to make sure that this recreation is continued for all to enjoy. We do need to ensure that we can road hunt for pheasant. This is sometimes the only way some hunters can hunt. I have been very lucky to have private land to hunt on but I also do some road hunting. Thank you very much for holding a high standard for this recreation in our state.

ID: 704

Goose hunting here in our county was very scarce as they are not flying through here like they use too. It's the same way for the ducks.

ID: 708

I have hunted pheasants in South Dakota since I was 13 years of age. I think the Game, Fish & Parks have done a great job in promoting our pheasant hunting. I am fortunate to have nephews who will still take an old man hunting.

ID: 709

Landowners charging big money to hunt on their land has destroyed the days of taking your young son and dog out to hunt as a father/son tradition.

ID: 710

The problem with hunting in South Dakota is more landowners are charging ridiculous amounts of money to hunt on their private land. It is getting harder to find places to hunt which is ruining the sport. More regulations need to be put on out of state hunters. They to often cause problems and don't know the hunting laws.

ID: 711

When we went hunting (pheasants) it was pretty wet and a lot of corn was still in the fields, so the birds were tucked away in there. They were tougher to flush out but it was still great fun!

ID: 712

The last time I hunted water birds was in 1984, I will not hunt them anymore.

ID: 723

There needs to be more non-pay areas for pheasants, ducks and geese that are productive hunting areas. I saw a lot of walk in areas that were harvested corn and therefore worthless to hunt. I believe they're unavailable until harvested, this is a waste of conservation dollars and should be discontinued in those cases.

ID: 724

I am lucky to have good friends who have access to good, free hunting on private land. Without this access, I believe that it would be much more difficult for me to make pheasant hunting affordable. I don't know that I would pay a lot to hunt pheasants, if that were the case I might just skip it.

ID: 729

I value our South Dakota pheasant hunting, both for the hunting enjoyment I experience and also for the financial benefits to our state.

ID: 749

We really need more public land / walk in areas particularly in Northern Minnehaha, Moody & Lake Counties. The commercialization of pheasant hunting brings a lot of money in from out of state hunters at the expense of resident hunters. How about a workshop that talks about what lands are available to us, small group tactics and maybe lead vs. steel shot.

ID: 750

The state has kissed up to non-resident hunters for years now, the numbers show this, resident licenses are down, non resident licenses are way up. The state uses the excuse that non residents provide money to the state while they are here hunting, what about the resident hunter that spends money here all yearlong? It is disappointing how the GF&P has destroyed road hunting with the silly rules that have been made up to keep the average hunter with a small budget from the way road hunting should be. What about the resident hunter only weekend? It's just another joke on the resident hunter. One weekend only and only on public land, putting thousands of hunters on land that the pheasants have been scared away from by weeks of other hunter, doves, ducks and the youth seasons. The state likes to listen to the people with money not the resident hunters, soon only the people with money will hunt South Dakota.

ID: 752

I primarily hunt pheasants, the last year I hunted geese and ducks was in 2003. The group of guys that I hunted ducks/geese with have gotten too old or passed away. The group of guys I hunt pheasants with is younger and we have access to great land.

ID: 754

I still enjoy pheasant and deer hunting.

ID: 760

I am a dairy farmer and I really enjoy hunting but unfortunately most years I am harvesting crops during hunting season. With harvesting and milking I find very little time available to hunt.

ID: 764

I feel the weather had more to do with hunting this year than years past, the early snow made it difficult.

ID: 773

At age 86, my son took me to a hunting lodge. I had never hunted before or owned a gun, I enjoyed it very much. I felt lucky to get 2 pheasants. I don't know if I'll hunt again.

ID: 793

There is too much land locked up into CRP. CRP should be open to public hunting, because Government pays the landowner to put the land into CRP. It is every one's tax money that pays for the CRP program.

ID: 794

East River had more luck, more populated, West River far and few in between.

ID: 803

I am a firm believer that there should "not" be road hunting. In my opinion it leads to trespassing & littering. The way my buildings are situated road hunting is shooting at me all the time.

ID: 805

Thanks for all you do to make South Dakota a great place to hunt and fish.

ID: 808

I enjoy hunting but it is sometimes limited because of seasonal farming time constraints. It would also be nice to have an out of state license for relatives (my son-in-law) who may only hunt 1 day every Thanksgiving or Christmas Holidays.

ID: 814

I love being out doors all the time! There's one thing that scares me an awful lot and that is the big chemical companies selling all the farmers their high powered genetic altered products. Most of the fields you drive through seem like there are no more solids left just pure dust. I live across from a Cargill elevator and it is the most rotten place you're ever see is dust.

ID: 817

Cut out of state licenses back by half. We need our pheasants for all people to hunt. We as farmers are tired of out of state hunters.

ID: 822

There were good bird numbers in Faulk County this year. I know this survey relates to small game, however, I would like to see a change in big game (deer in particular) regulations. I hunt deer in Nebraska their process for deer season units is a better approach. I have avoided SD deer because of the pressure and travel distance required.

ID: 829

I believe we have too many rooster pheasants and the limit should be increased to five. I am a landowner and I am finding the abundant number of pheasants is causing problems in getting seeds to get out of the ground due to pheasants digging them out.

ID: 838

I have a limited amount of time and love to bow hunt. I can bow hunt close to home. I have lived in South Dakota for 5 years and love what the state has to offer for sportsmen.

ID: 842

I only hunted pheasants, I would like to goose hunt and duck hunt.

ID: 866

I have bought game licenses in SD in the last three years for elk and pheasant but have never been able to go hunting or even see the country side, maybe this year, 2009, I might get to go but at least the money I spent on the licenses will go to the GFP in hopes of preserving hunting for future trips.

ID: 873

Paid hunting is taken a lot of the hunting I used to be able to do; I can not afford to pay what the rich guys do. I think paid hunting is ruining hunting for regular South Dakotans.

ID: 874

I hunt in Marshall County and the pheasant numbers are down, the deer numbers are down and the turkey numbers are up, this concerns me. Also, with the tribe buying their land back, this is squeezing the SD GF&P licenses on to smaller areas. This is also a bad trend.

ID: 891

Age and health consideration sometimes interfere with hunting.

ID: 899

I am a member of Pheasants forever and have been for years. I make several yearly trips to Spink, Brown and Potter counties so that upsets my bird numbers. Hunting in Yankton, Bon Homme counties is down Pheasants Forever acquired land and walk in areas which I used a lot. Expect private crop CRP land to be down in 2009, thus more difficult to find good bird numbers. Quite often I go without a gun just to work with the dogs. That's what it's all about.

ID: 921

I feel CRP ground that farmers are getting paid to leave, should be posted so it can be hunted like public ground. Since we are actually paying them with out tax money they should be posted as public hunting! It's getting harder to find ground to hunt without having to pay for it.

ID: 923

I participated in the hunt safe at the Outdoor Campus with my daughter. It was a fantastic event for the both of us. The volunteer instructors are wonderful.

ID: 936

I didn't get any bird stamps just small game.

ID: 947

I enjoy hunting very much but with back and knee pain coming up at my age it's getting less all the time.

ID: 948

There is no need to hold pheasant season past the end of November. A lot of hunters have more than legal possession limits in their freezers any way give the pheasants a break! Commercial hunting is making it to difficult to get on private land. It's definitely not like it was when I was growing up, you hunt anywhere if you just ask.

ID: 1009

I prefer grouse over pheasants. I have not been very interested in waterfowl.

ID: 1021

My kids are not old enough to hunt yet, but I would like to go with them, when they are eligible. I do get discouraged trying to find land to hunt. I will not hunt pheasants without a dog any more because I spend more time looking for birds, them hunting them. My hunting trip this year was paid for by a business. I would not pay to hunt someone's land. \$100 per day is \$33 a bird, I cannot justify that. Despite the beautiful wildlife overall it is too difficult to hunt.

ID: 1030

The fellows that I used to go goose hunting with have all passed on.

ID: 1034

It's hard to find places to hunt. When road hunting you get harassed by the landowners.

ID: 1035

I will be 65 years of age in 2009. I have hunted for years with my husband and several brothers, only recently I hunt and pheasants. Each year, what use to be a "poor man's" sport has turned into an expensive complicated process. Soon, I will pass my guns to my grandchildren with the hope the new generations will enjoy the thrill, challenge, beauty and pride as I have in the past.

ID: 1044

Pheasant hunting was more difficult in 2008 due to the fact that fields were not harvested. Birds were plentiful but hard to get to. Walk-in areas are more plentiful which is good, but some do not have enough cover to hold birds. We saw more grouse this past season than we have seen for a long time.

ID: 1046

When I left to NC in 1984 hunting had got less birds and I just stop hunting at all. I came back in 2003 and did not hunt! 2007 I shot more birds and hunted less days! I hunted for many years 1970-1984 there are less birds now. My 94 year old father got me into birds and I would not ever forget the time we spent and would like it to be better in birds! So he and I may spend just one more hunt like we had!

ID: 1053

Pheasant season is too long. 60 days is long enough.

ID: 1064

CRP ground has definitely improved the numbers of pheasants in our area of the state (Minnehaha County). I hope this set a side ground will continue.

ID: 1089

I'm an old ruff grouse hunter from NC , I have never shot a duck in my lifetime and too old to do a lot of pheasant hunting but still like to get out with my bird dogs about two hours is my day's hunting time. I still work full time.

ID: 1096

To hunt ducks you have to have decoys and you need a boat and motor. I couldn't afford a better motor for my canoe so I did not go in 20008. Next year I will buy one.

ID: 1100

I had a lot of pheasants on my land until the coyotes moved in, now there are none.

ID: 1101

Best time is with the grandkids, they are all good and safe hunters.

ID: 1103

Great country here in South Dakota.

ID: 1105

I know the state gets lots of money from out of state hunters but it is getting too commercialized. People are hunting on private land without permission because they do not know where to hunt or just don't care.

ID: 1108

My comments are based on very limited hunting done this year due to a temporary knee problem and a very busy fall schedule with several business activities during ordinary years I pheasant hunt much more than this year.

ID: 1112

Rifle deer season should be moved so its not during rut—prime archery hunting season.

ID: 1113

I am not much into hunting but I think it is a great sporting tradition and therefore I purchased a hunting license in support of the government related costs such as public lands.

ID: 1146

I now live in Fargo ND.

ID: 1148

I love to hunt but I I just seem to be busy.

ID: 1152

The weather was not good.

ID: 1163

I like to hunt pheasants and deer. I have hunted ducks and geese back in the 70's and 80's and early 90's. With a growing family hunting took a back burner along with a big lack of funds being the only bread winner for 20+ years hunting and fishing went by the wayside. With all the private hunting clubs makes it hard to go because everyone wants to charge for hunting. I understand the profit from it but with a very limited budget it keeps us from hunting more plus lack of time.

ID: 1164

Very good Season

ID: 1172

I moved from Shannon County 01/09.

ID: 1181

I didn't hunt duck or geese.

ID: 1187

I grew up in South Dakota hunting pheasants since I was a kid and I still love to hunt, however, it has become so commercialized anymore that the local working people can't afford to hunt anymore. I hunt roadways because the public hunting areas are hunted so hard it is difficult to find a spot that doesn't have hunters on it constantly, and landowners do everything they can to either stop or mess up the roadway hunting.

ID: 1190

I am opposed to 10 years olds hunting. I am also not in favor of the resident only weekend. I would rather see us/you extend hunting to the second weekend in January.

ID: 1191

There is too much land going into pay to hunt situations and the cost of hunting is starting to drive some people away.

ID: 1199

I have hunted pheasants since the mid-60's and it depended on having a place to hunt. I'm not even interested in hunting unless it is with a couple of good hunting dogs. I prefer to take long range shots I feel that is the safest way to hunt, so it is important to have dogs to locate the birds.

ID: 1201

I wish Pheasant hunting and duck hunting were available to out of state hunters like they are in Minnesota. If you purchase an out of state license you should be able to hunt the full season not just two five day sessions.

ID: 1203

Of the 30 years I've been hunting in South Dakota, this was probably in the top 3 of the poorest hunting I've ever had.

ID: 1225

I don't eat ducks or geese so I won't shoot either. For the all around hunter South Dakota is hard to beat, I love it.

ID: 1228

I've hunted in Wisconsin & Minnesota since I was 12 (legal age for each of those states), as well as walking (accompanying) along when I was younger. South Dakota has the best pheasant hunting on private lands I have ever witnessed. It is very difficult to hunt anything else including pheasants, ducks, etc. without connections or large sums of money.

ID: 1230

There needs to be more pheasants in Western South Dakota.

ID: 1241

I do have a friend that goes goose hunting. He has tried to get me out there but our schedules haven't lined up.

ID: 1242

Why is it we cannot purchase our licenses at the County Courthouse and not pay the \$2.00 optional fee agent fee every time we purchase a license or a stamp? The public areas in Eastern SD are not very good bird hunting places. What are you doing to fix it? I've gone to public areas that are next to private pay hunts and they walk and chase into private lands for themselves and paying hunters.

ID: 1245

I think preserves should only be allowed to hunt during the regular season.

ID: 1250

As more farmers charge to hunt it is getting harder to find a place to hunt without paying. I think the state should buy farmland and rent it to farmers. Then draw for tags to hunt it in a raffle in December. The rent would pay for the land and it would provide more public land to hunt. Have the renter leave crop strips for food and cover.

ID: 1251

I would like more GFP areas developed for food plots.

ID: 1261

I think the non resident license holders are not paying there fair share for the privilege to hunt in our state. \$110.00 for 30 pheasants plus other small game is awful cheap. That needs to be raised to \$150.00. Shooting preserves permits need to be raised from the landowners that are running them. We are getting way too many of them in the state. The S.P. permits are way too cheap for what they are reaping from the hunters and the dates should be reduced from Sept. 15 to Jan. 15.

ID: 1268

With the change in law regarding mentored hunting, I believe it is time to change the age for the hunter safety course. Also, there needs to be better publicity on when this course is offered and how often it is available.

ID: 1269

Pheasants are very plentiful in the areas I've been hunting the last couple of years. No "pheasant farm" raised birds in these areas. All are "wild birds" it makes the hunts more challenging! There's an unbelievable amount of birds in the Northeast/North Central part of the state compared to Southeast part of the state! What a thrill.

ID: 1274

Buying a license is to damned expensive for the meat you get. This goes for small game as well as big game.

ID: 1276

I live in Brule County and by the time ducks migrate through, the season is over.

ID: 1278

I have land in Faulk County, it's the only place I hunt.

ID: 1281

It would be nice if you could hunt on the Missouri River.

ID: 1290

I think the owners of a pay to hunt place should not be allowed to take their paying hunting on public land.

ID: 1303

I have been hunting pheasants all my life and have never seen as many pheasants as I did this year.

ID: 1310

I have hunted all my life. Last fall I had a stroke so I never even shot my gun. I still had hunters come and hunted my land. It was fun to see them and their dog enjoy hunting.

ID: 1326

I mostly go ice fishing or hunting for deer. Just haven't had the opportunity to duck, pheasant or goose hunt.

ID: 1348

This is unrelated to birds but in 2006 I got a leftover elk (Black Hills in the area east of Crazy Horse) when GFP offered these licenses they were aware there were no elk in that area. I strongly feel I had been had big time!

ID: 1350

Pheasant season is way too long.

ID: 1351

I wish to thank GF&P for the effort and work that has been done to make pheasant hunting in South Dakota easy and enjoyable. The hunting opportunities on public land and walk-in areas in addition to private land make; South Dakota unique to its neighboring states and provides a new resident to South Dakota ample opportunities to enjoy a day in the field. This survey shows continued interest and interest in providing quality hunting in the future. I was born and raised in central Iowa and grew up before abundant herbicide use on the farm pheasant hunting was then and is now an enjoyable experience with family and friends to share.

ID: 1354

I'm Thankful for living in the great hunting state of South Dakota.

ID: 1355

You need to modify road hunting regulations. You need to be able to hunt private property during resident only season. From Dec. 20 to the first weekend in January should only be open to residents.

ID: 1356

I would like to see some of these guide services held to stronger standards, most of these people around here think they own the birds, not the public, I had friends up to hunt and got threatened by a guide road hunting. I don't know what can be done about these guys but something needs to be done before someone gets shot.

ID: 1368

I am very disappointed on the Black Hills deer season. A few family members including myself have not drawn deer tags in 2-4 years. A resident should be able to draw a license to hunt. We live and pay taxes in the Black Hills of South Dakota we should be able to get a deer tag. I'm very disappointed in the whole drawing system. Please consider taking these comments in to consideration. I live on wild game!

ID: 1369

Several walk in areas were baled this year right before the opener. There were fewer pheasants because the grass was cut too short.

ID: 1370

I road hunted in Lincoln, Turner, Clay, Yankton, Bon Homme and Beadle counties. I got my 2 birds in Beadle County.

ID: 1376

I always hunt in a group of eight or more hunters. This group consists of both resident and non resident hunters. We always hunt with 2-3 dogs but I do not own a hunting dog. I always hunt private (fee charged) land.

ID: 1384

When are you going to move the rifle season so it's not in the rut!

ID: 1405

Sorry I don't have any opinions on this survey since I have not hunted birds of any kind for over 30 years.

ID: 1408

I hunt a lot of public land and I hunt just a couple of private farms. On the public lands I see very few pheasants compared to the private land. I think there is too much pressure on the public lands. I still like to hunt on them. I just wish they were more productive.

ID: 1430

I have no place to hunt.

ID: 1432

I'm not much of a hunter.

ID: 1433

I'm on the wrong side of the state to be involved.

ID: 1440

Big money is eliminating the middle to lower class society to hunt private lands. Public lands are disappointing due to hunting unknowns. The lands may have been hunted prior to personal hunts or groups that horde the land. Goose hunting has not been enjoyable since early season has been implemented. The big geese get chased south.

ID: 1446

I would like to suggest the Pheasant hunting license fees changed to: 1) Allow non-resident pheasant hunters the option to purchase a seasonal permit. 2) Reduce the cost of the 10 day non-resident hunting permit by 50% for those who are presently in the Military and have served overseas.

ID: 1451

I am from Letcher SD, approximately 10 years ago I assembled a group of friends and since then we have hunted every year around Letcher. We definitely hunt for the group friendship, to get away from work and our significant others (not meant negatively) and it wouldn't matter if we bagged 3 birds or 30. In my opinion, GFP is doing a good job with their regulations. The bird numbers are very good.

ID: 1461

Hunting road right of ways is an invitation for slob hunters to hunt and drink.

ID: 1466

Please eliminate road hunting. There are too many disrespectful pheasant hunters breaking laws and disrespecting private grounds. At a minimum the use of dogs while road hunting should not be permitted, too many guys train the dogs to flush the birds off of private ground into row areas.

ID: 1468

Thanks for the walk in program. I believe it may be the only chance future SD residence may have to hunt. SD hunting is for to commercial and getting worse.

ID: 1480

I enjoy bow hunting for deer the most. It appears that the GFP is trying to harvest higher numbers of deer by starting the rifle season earlier each year and then extending the season by converting all unused tags to does. I'm more concerned about my own safety with the unethical hunting tactics of some rifle hunters than ever before.

ID: 1485

My earlier years of hunting were primarily with my children and my wife who accompanied us but didn't hunt; my brothers and an uncle who hunted to the age of 85. I find I enjoy seeing pheasants, ducks and geese than I do harvesting them. I have no real desire to kill a goose at this time in my life. I love seeing them come in to decoys and seeing them respond to a call. I can't bring myself to kill them.

ID: 1491

There were a lot of birds where we hunted this year, but it was hard to get them up as there was a lot of corn standing when we hunted. Deer season should have been left as it was before this year. We lost our cabin we use because of the season opening earlier.

ID: 1492

I am hoping that some day they will allow me to shoot a buck whitetail with my bow during January. I know you can take a doe in January but don't understand why you can't shoot bucks too.

ID: 1507

In the last couple of years game production and waterfowl areas have been mowed, plowed and as a result not good for hunting, and repeated the next year. This pushes more hunters on to fewer acres. One area trees were cut down, why destroy cover where birds hang out? Will these efforts really produce more birds? Some public areas have had food plots, and always had a good number of birds. In recent years one area I have hunted for 16 years and they no longer have food plots, why? One neighbor put land into CRP and the other rotated corn and soybeans but this area is not holding as many birds as it once did. Another area holds a good numbers of birds all season when there is a food plot but when there is none it is almost devoid of birds. The number of out of state hunters makes it harder for me to find places to hunt when pheasant numbers are up but can always find a place. In 2008 friends who hunted on private land and saw all kinds of birds but it was slow on public lands. The late harvest made it hard to find birds, mid December was much better of late December it was too cold but you can't do anything about he weather!

ID: 1525

My time spent hunting in 2008 was significantly less than compared to previous years due to the extremely long fall harvest season. Number of hunters and available game birds still seemed incredibly high. I hope to spend more time in the field in 2009.

ID: 1527

I would like to hunt along the river but it is too hard to know where you can and can't hunt.

ID: 1533

You should make the season longer.

ID: 1536

I have not hunted waterfowl and very little pheasants in the last 10 years. Everything has changed so much for the average hunters, it's all greed and who you can screw the most, the GFP started this money hungry, greed only the rich and very few average people can afford this today. Growing up it was great in South Dakota, hunting and fishing, anymore this has all past away, except for the rich to play to their tune.

ID: 1546

The East River deer rifle season should start a week later. I am an avid bow hunter and during the best deer movement (the rut) rifle season opens. Practically when rifle season starts, which by accident is the best time to bow hunt, the bow hunting is shut down due to deer movement moving to nocturnal phases for all doe and bucks. The rifle season is extended long enough after the regular season to harvest and control deer herds.

ID: 1549

The hunting licenses are getting too expensive. By the time I buy my combination license and all my stamps it \$100 before I even walk into the field. Add that to the cost of shells and it's almost too expensive to go. If you keep increasing license fees, South Dakota residents will stop buying them. We feed the animals and we pay taxes on the land which they live. We can only give so much!

ID: 1557

I request looking into extending the pheasant season into January. For the local hunters it gives us a chance to hunt in the snow (this is more likely in January) and away from all the out of state hunters. Please continue to work on more land for public use.

ID: 1572

I can not believe youth deer hunters can get so many licenses. I have not shot a deer in 3 years and it certainly is not that I don't try, there are too many youths starting in August. Pheasant hunting was way different due to so much corn.

ID: 1573

I think the State of South Dakota does a good job managing wildlife, fisheries, etc. I appreciate the walleye fishing, pheasant hunting, etc. that this state provides. One constructive comment I would make is I think as a state we cater too much to out of state hunters, sometimes forgetting about South Dakotans. I realize tourism is a major source of income for the state but I just think this is something that should always be considered when making wildlife or fisheries decisions.

ID: 1576

One of the reasons that I don't hunt geese or ducks is because I don't like the taste of them.

ID: 1593

Pheasant hunting was a little difficult due to the late harvest of corn. The late season hunting was much better. I don't think this survey will justify bird population for up coming year due to the winter cold and snow we were getting in our area. I heard of dead pheasants in snow banks. Migration of waterfowl seemed to be down this year due to (probably) the late harvest up north.

ID: 1595

I haven't hunted pheasant or ducks for about 10 years. It's not because I don't like to but I chose not to.

ID: 1599

I am interested in a one day workshop to improve my deer or elk hunting, especially in the Black Hills area. Please give an age preference to us older guys for a "once in a lifetime" elk hunt in Custer State Park. I'm 62 and have applied 15 times, how much longer do I have to wait, until I'm 70 or 80?

ID: 1604

I feel that the loss of CRP acres in Eastern SD has had a big impact on the season success rate. After these last few storms, the pheasants were concentrated in the sloughs and must have been easy to catch for coyotes as I found three places in one area where birds had been eaten and my dog actually caught one that couldn't get away in the snow. We need to offer a bounty on predators to get the interest up for more folks to give predator hunting a try.

ID: 1605

Pheasant hunting was excellent as far as the bird numbers. I didn't hunt as much as years past because I had an artificial shoulder joint put in my left shoulder in 2008 and I am left handed.

ID: 1619

I need to make more time to hunt birds. My wife does not hunt birds, but we both enjoy large game hunting. In recent years I've been hunting large game with her. Bird hunting has become a second choice.

ID: 1625

Please consider removing the bottom barb wire on fencing surrounding game production areas. The bottom barb wire is very dangerous for the dogs. My dog was out for 2 weeks with one barb wire cut.

ID: 1631

You forgot to ask about grouse hunting. Just for your information it was an average hunt this year or slightly below average.

ID: 1640

I do not agree with the current right of way pheasant hunting I feel it should not be allowed. I will not pay to hunt, if it goes this way I will not hunt, I'll quit before I pay to hunt. 3 ½ shells has had a terrible effect on waterfowl hunting. I won't buy a new gun to hunt for a couple of days a year. I don't like the resident only pheasant season.

ID: 1645

This state has great opportunities. I just don't have time to enjoy them all. I have a son and friends that take full opportunity of the nature and wildlife.

ID: 1646

I love living in SD and hunting every fall. It is a tradition I share with family and friends! It is a yearly reunion with all including Mother Nature, this state, the outdoors and best of all friends & family. We must maintain the habitat & wetlands.

ID: 1647

Please keep in mind that I live in Western South Dakota and we've had drought conditions for the past 10 years. Not good for ducks or geese and not much better for pheasants. I will become more interested now that my grand children are going to be a long.

ID: 1651

I grew up in a family of hunters & fishermen and therefore enjoy wildlife but have lost interest in hunting for the most part but I absolutely love photo graphing wildlife and the outdoors. My husband and I both enjoy shed hunting, fish & just being out in nature.

ID: 1656

In the past bird hunting in the fall was not a great option. My employment limited my time to hunt. Many new local landowners want reserve hunting on their land but are willing to trespass to hunt on others. This gives hunters a bad impression to be socially acceptable to other neighbors.

ID: 1659

I only had time to hunt once this year, but typically I would hunt 10-15 times a year. Good places to hunt within 30 minutes of Sioux Falls are hard to find.

ID: 1662

Pheasant hunting has become a wealthy persons sport. However, if you work with landowners throughout the year you can gain access to private land. West River pheasant hunting seems to be more resident friendly than East River. West River goose hunting is a treat. It has merits that East River can't provide.

ID: 1675

Every year it gets harder to find a place to hunt. Hunting is getting so commercialized that everyone wants to get paid a lot of money to let you hunt. Between the rising license fees and the cost of fuel and tighter regulations it almost isn't worth going out hunting anymore. It is hard to imagine what hunting will be like by the time my kids are ready to hunt. Will there be anything left by then? If I didn't like hunting so much I probably would just quit. It is almost to the point if you don't own your own land you shouldn't even bother going out.

ID: 1677

There needs to be more consideration given to allowing antlerless tags to be filled in Oct, Nov and Dec. I know some counties have it now. It would be nice to have more options for hunters to help harvest antlerless deer and antelope.

ID: 1684

I have great habitat but the numbers were down this year.

ID: 1697

We are landowners in Brule County so it is not hard to find a place to hunt pheasants.

ID: 1705

The combination licenses and general licenses could be cheaper.

ID: 1706

All I can say is there were a lot of pheasants around and I think if we have a good winter & a good hatch next year, the GFP should think about extending the season or else buy more pheasants next year.

ID: 1720

Pheasant hunting has become way too commercialized for the “average” resident because of the out of state hunters that bring in a lot of revenue. Land owners that have the bird count won't let you hunt without paying (not my way of pheasant hunting). The public hunting area's has become way too crowded and over hunted.

ID: 1722

The only reason I didn't hunt much this year was the crops were in too late.

ID: 1729

I didn't see as many roosters this year as previous. The hens seemed to out number them. I think the wet spring has negative impact on nesting.

ID: 1733

It is really sad the way hunting is going. In the near future you will need to be the top 10% of the people who have money in order to hunt. I have never and will never pay to hunt. I do favors for people who allow me to hunt and treat them with respect. I have hunted deer on the same West River ranch since 1977. I have had a rifle West River deer license or Black Hills or both since 1953. I have had archer tags 1 or more since 1963.

ID: 1738

I love all these sports dearly but my being handicap often makes it difficult for me to participate as much as I'd like. Trapping has become very important.

ID: 1756

There needs to be more walk in areas. The road right away rules need too be changed back to the old way. We need less commercial hunting so the average person can go hunting.

ID: 1758

It seems that warden's, GFP reps are more concerned with helping people who are willing to legally enjoy all the outdoor sports our great state has to offer.

ID: 1763

I have not lived in the state for very long.

ID: 1766

The Sportsman's Atlas is great! I would like it to identify public and walk in areas with food plots. Those with existing plots need to be maintained or replaced periodically. The sign up land that is available is great and landowners are a tribute to our heritage. Tell the legislators to take a hike. Please continue to purchase lands for public use!

ID: 1774

I don't like to eat ducks or geese. Pheasants are wonderful to eat.

ID: 1775

As a dedicated bow hunter, I believe pheasant season starts too early. When pheasant season starts the deer get chased around and do not move as natural and many become nocturnal, making it difficult. Please end the January antlerless gun season, there are far too many bucks that have shed being shot for does.

ID: 1783

I would like to go antelope and mule deer hunting, West River SD but I am unsure where to go or if I could drag game a long distance back to the car.

ID: 1784

I have no problem with pay hunting, however, because of pay hunting I have been hunting county roads right of ways. A greedy landowner feels he owns the birds. Ask the pay hunters if their young children go hunting with them. I you don't hunt when you young, you probably won't when your older. I have decided to quit hunting altogether. My 3 children don't hunt anymore either.

ID: 1790

Hunting was great this year. I wish I could have spent more time at it!

ID: 1792

Hunting and our family's heritage are the reasons we live here but we no longer have time to travel to private properties and have found it very difficult to identify public land in proximity. We are willing to support a greater taxation for hunting preservation and I believe many others would be as well.

ID: 1807

It continues to be a challenge to find landowners willing to let you hunt without paying a fee.

ID: 1811

I firmly believe that all CRP land should be open to public hunting. It is taxpayer money paying the farmer for his land and the tax payer should obtain benefit for their tax dollars.

ID: 1813

When I was young I lived in Madison and went to school in Brookings, at that time I hunted pheasants, ducks, and geese.

ID: 1820

I have never hunted with a gun only walked the fields with other hunters.

ID: 1828

We need a much better program to compensate farmers to leave wetlands for nesting and habitation restrictions on present programs and past are way to difficult to make work and still pay for lost acres! It's only fair that those people who have additional sloughs etc be compensated for all the benefits they provide for everyone.

ID: 1831

This last year walk a long for pheasants was very hard to do. I like to leave home in western South Dakota and go to eastern South Dakota for the outing and visit with friends back there. If I get no pheasants it doesn't make any difference to me. Not real big on hunting so ducks and geese I do not do.

ID: 1843

Public walk in areas should be checked to make sure the sign declaring that it is a walk in area is still there and viewable from the road. Some areas have signs that are too old or have been bent over.

ID: 1846

The main reason I don't hunt pheasants is that my legs are so bad I have a hard time walking and I only like to hunt them over a bird dog. Ducks and goose hunting is getting to expensive with gas, license, and shells and miscellaneous would rather archery hunt in my old age.

ID: 1848

I grew up on a farm in eastern South Dakota. As a kid started out shooting 410's and 22's, looked forward to every hunting season there was. If you asked you could hunt about anywhere you wanted to. Now it's all about the money. "Pay hunting" you can ask pre season for permission to hunt and the answer you get is why don't you check with me the last weekend of the season maybe then. These are the same farmers and ranchers that ask GF&P for help protecting their grain and hay fields and hay stacks. I love to hunt and have sons, daughters and in laws that love to hunt, but we are losing interest. Clay birds and the shooting range are about all we have left.

ID: 1849

Foul just isn't in my food chain. It looks exiting but not! Sorry!

ID: 1852

I did not like the privileges taken away from river access.

ID: 1864

In the fall of 2007, prior to starting out pheasant hunting, my husband discharged his shotgun in an unsafe manner while I was standing next to him. This discharge caused me to vow never to go hunting with him again. I will never go pheasant hunting again!

ID: 1869

I myself felt that the pheasant population was down where I live, but in other areas around me it was good. There was a lot of good cover for birds. Ducks and geese seem to get harder to hunt, because a lot of landowner's won't let you in to hunt them in fields they are feeding in.

ID: 1886

I believe out of state landowners should be able to purchase a season long just the same as residents of state that are not landowners are able to.

ID: 1901

This was my first year to pheasant hunt and it was a wonderful experience I enjoyed it very much and learned a great deal.

ID: 1910

Husband has been an avid hunter in South Dakota over the last twelve years. I am looking to get into more hunting experience over the next few years.

ID: 1916

I would like to say that we have such a wonderful country to hunt and fish in and that by working together we can solve the economy problems if everyone tightens their belt and buy US made products.

ID: 1917

Will not hunt ducks or geese because GF&P restricts who can hunt. It's bull on a federal bird.

ID: 1919

Thank you for a job well done in managing our hunting lands.

ID: 1933

My husband and sons are avid hunters. I enjoy going along to share time with family, but due to my eye sight I am not a good shot and no longer try very hard to shoot birds.

ID: 1935

I think it is absolutely ridiculous to close duck season before goose season. We miss out on hunting the northern mallards almost every year. I don't understand the logic behind this.

ID: 1945

Access to hunting land is my primary reason for limited hunting this year. I support the idea of the CHAPS program and would utilize those opportunities.

ID: 1955

The deer numbers down; season to long, to many tags.

ID: 1956

GF&P needs to release more pheasants in eastern South Dakota.

ID: 1963

I love the outdoors, hunting, fishing and all outdoor activities, but everything to do with the outdoors is just getting to expensive for us poor boys. I work for the county, and the wages are not much above poverty level. By the time we buy licenses, just etc. There is no money left for waterfowl stamps.

ID: 1964

The weather was not good for pheasant hunting this year for me otherwise we always get one limit.

ID: 1972

Our country is swiftly becoming over populated, many of the hard masses that were great for hunting are disappearing one of the things I love about South Dakota is the open land. I am very saddened by people who can't take care of it. Keep up your good work.

ID: 1976

I would really like to see more and better public ground available for resident hunters. We live here year round and deserve some better privileges than those that do not. I respect the money out of staters bring in but we should not have to pay that kind for money for good pheasant ground. I have never shot a bird on public ground not even during resident only weekend (have hardly seen any). With all the rules road hunting is getting to hard. Because of chained up goats and such in right of ways. Landowners marking well beyond 660! In general those of us that live here years round and pay taxes on all the land here deserve a little more benefits than those that do not. Vacations/hunting cost money not citizenship.

ID: 1977

Not that it will ever change now, but after experiencing the years of steel shot, I choose to hunt only private land one of the reasons is to not wound and loose game to poor kills from non-toxic steel, ill never believe the benefits out weighs the disadvantages. Perhaps the logic is ok on waterfowl. Walk in areas that have been grazed off provide little habitat. How can bare pasture qualify for walk in cover? Pay hunting folks should not be able to take their pay hunters on public grounds, mowing or tilling ditches above the river next to pay hunt ground should stop. The resident only pheasant week prior to opener is a good thing why not extends it to private land. Raise the non-resident hunting license fees; they would pay more use it for habitat.

ID: 1978

I don't hunt much, and shoot a few gophers, and a coyote or two, and some skunks and raccoons, every once in a while will hunt deer.

ID: 1979

I'm too old to hunt!

ID: 1983

I think that any time the GF&P can open up more access to habitat for non-landowners that will be a benefit. I have a genuine fear that commercial hunting will eventually freeze out access to non-landowners. I have access to quite a bit of private ground but have seen a noticeable loss of access over the past few years to pay hunters/outfitters. It is hard to pass the gift of the outdoors on to kids if you can't find a decent place to hunt.

ID: 1986

I believe we need to increase the daily limit to six or eight. Deer hunting please don't have a raffle, first come first serve.

ID: 1990

Keep up the good work with the walk in areas.

ID: 2007

Out of state are charged to much, but I do see the point.

ID: 2030

There is way too many landowners that want you to pay for their pheasants, they don't belong to the people of South Dakota. They belong to the landowners.

ID: 2035

Pheasant hunting is way too commercial! Road hunting rules are about turning off your vehicle having doors closed etc. Shooting between fence lines are directly related to the commercial hunting business not recreation! The few good places to hunt public land are let's just say not the best hunting. I would not mind paying a reasonable fee to hunt but \$100-\$150 a day to shoot three birds, or more! Why do we have to pay someone other than GF&P money to hunt wild animals? Okay well they are mostly pen raised now but what happened? I also do not like the fact that the two point system in the Black Hills deer hunting has been changed! I would like to see it get changed back to bucks two points or better. It worked well! I would also like to see the silly road hunting rules removed.

ID: 2043

Great survey keep it up!

ID: 2044

I have not hunted ducks since the point system was instated. The fear of scoring incorrectly and being and being sited along with the difficulty in finding free hunting where there isn't a crowd has discouraged me.

ID: 2047

I received many different surveys through the years and have completed them. Thanks for the great conservation work. Maybe this year you guys can pick me for a deer license. I've applied two years and denied two years.

ID: 2049

Access is getting to be a problem. Don't like fighting the crowds and confrontations. Terrible access to public lands. You have to have a boat to enjoy our lakes (Sharpe, Oahe, etc). Regulations are too complicated.

ID: 2050

Would have hunted more but health reasons made it difficult.

ID: 2051

Need mountain lions calls.

ID: 2059

Pheasant opener should be open to all South Dakota land for the resident's not just public land.

ID: 2072

I think in southern Union county season should be shortened or closed. Too hopefully rebuild population in some shape or form. This pertains to our pheasant season.

ID: 2073

My last pheasant hunt was December 29th 2008. The birds were very plentiful, indicating good survival of blizzard and sub zero, windy conditions. I didn't hunt ducks or geese for the first time in many years due to the high cost of extra stamps and waterfowl shot shells. Some goose loads are a dollar a shot! Ducks and goose meat is not as tasty as pheasant. With the increase rainfall of 2008 (in western South Dakota at least) the habitat was thick and the scenery beautiful. Camaraderie and conversation, to and from hunting sites are an important part of hunting fun.

ID: 2078

Encourage farmers to leave their soybean stubble for pheasant grazing in the fall. Tillage after harvest ruins good feeding grounds. Since there are about two to three acres of soybeans left in the field, they provide a high energy food for pheasants.

ID: 2084

I farm so we hunt pheasants on our own land. I do not like the road hunters that just drive around and shoot pheasants in the field edges.

ID: 2089

As families move off farms hunting is very expensive for many families fast becoming less and less important and less of a family tradition in South Dakota. Deer hunting in the Black Hills about only easy free areas to hunt left.

ID: 2100

Hunted on family owned private land, probably would not hunt if didn't have this access.

ID: 2108

Can't afford a boat for waterfowl hunting, very difficult to find hunting companions, dog/best hunting buddy died of old age. Hard finding any place to hunt anything; hunting alone is okay for archery.

ID: 2113

I have been hunting pheasants in South Dakota for approximately 30 years. My son and I look forward to opening day each year. This activity always brings friends and family together. Hunt Safe!

ID: 2117

Need to have more tree belts on ranches and farms and be able to have a list of them that we can hunt on.

ID: 2129

With all the pheasants I think the daily limit should be raised because they are going to destroy farmer's crops in spring.

ID: 2130

We have had multiple incidents with road hunters, from littering, drinking and driving to stealing!

ID: 2133

I buy my "sportsman license" because I like to fish in the summer for relaxation and I'd like to be legal for when I do get the urge to go pheasant hunting with my friends. I was a west coast gal who is fascinated with the great outdoors.

ID: 2146

Hunting this year was a little more difficult (pheasant) because of having crops in the field though most of the season. Had to work a little harder to get the birds, once crops were out there was an abundance of birds.

ID: 2170

Keep up the good work!!!

ID: 2172

I think the pheasant hunting season should extend through January. I think that pheasant hunting in South Dakota has become too commercialized.

ID: 2174

Love to goose and duck hunt in the past but never found a way to prepare it in a way everyone could enjoy it.

ID: 2178

I haven't been hunting much at all lately, more involved in sports baseball and football. Lately still buy the permits but seldom get the time.

ID: 2179

You people have commercialized hunting of any kind to the point there is no place for John Doe average hunter any more! I don't believe you care about the opinion of the average guy.

ID: 2185

The pay hunting is getting out of control, the good lord put the wildlife on this earth for everyone to enjoy free not to profit from.

ID: 2187

The rooster count in the Chip Allen hunting area seemed low.

ID: 2188

Road right of ways are very important.

ID: 2196

Game Fish and Parks needs to do everything possible to get more of our young involved in hunting. GF&P needs to defend our constitutional right to keep and bear arms! GF&P needs to stick up more for hunters and not make people in the field feel like criminals with accusatory questioning. GF&P should concentrate a lot less on ethics and more on landowner education. I don't think a lot of landowners appreciate how much money hunters spend to help control game populations without

hunters the whole system would collapse and ranchers would be back to figuring out things for themselves. That would be a disaster! GF&P and hunters are the best conservation sportsmen the world has ever known. Keep up the good work!

ID: 2197

Hunting in general plays a vital role in keeping wildlife populations healthy. Unfortunately license fees are getting too expensive for families. Especially in South Dakota, family oriented activities are important and license fees are getting to be too much by the time you get fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses I think SD needs to take another look at this. South Dakota does do a good job with rules/regulations. Keep up the good work!

ID: 2203

Too much ground that you can't hunt on. Farmers have no hunting signs up all over and no cover for birds no fence lines no grass in road dish they burn, or cut them.

ID: 2210

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to fill out this survey. I hope that this information will be found useful.

ID: 2220

Work on nesting habitat since we are losing much CRP habitat.

ID: 2230

Deer and pheasant seasons are way to long. Hunters interfere with my trapping. They steal everything in sight. My trapping harvest is way down. I can't/won't start till the orange army goes home. By then the snow is usually very deer and access becomes a problem.

ID: 2231

Access to hunting land is becoming more difficult because of paid hunting (unless we want to pay ourselves) I urge you to raise the hunting fees (especially on non-residents) and use the revenue to purchase or rent land for public use. Raising non-resident licenses from \$100 to \$150 would raise five million dollars and years to rent or purchase land for residents to hunt.

ID: 2245

This year was a unique year for me for pheasant hunting; I really enjoyed the fact that I had the opportunity to mentor my 11 year old son for his first year of pheasant hunting. I really enjoyed the experience, even though the next season, after he has taken the hunter safety course. Much excitement and memories happened this year.

ID: 2247

Dwindling numbers of geese and ducks and habitat have made hunting for waterfowl in the areas I hunt is the main reason for not hunting. The time and money it takes to go hunting does not always equal out to the pleasure of being outdoors. With the economy the way it is now and with the amount of game to hunt I really don't see myself hunting for many years, unless some things change with the areas to hunt waterfowl and get the ducks and geese to stop and stay for a while.

ID: 2249

It would like to see the goose season longer in Minnehaha County maybe till February so people don't have to go clear to Pierre to hunt geese.

ID: 2250

I thought the walk-in areas were over hunted badly so I didn't hunt them.

ID: 2256

I hunt on relatives land so access is not a problem. But if I didn't have that access I would probably not hunt because there is no public lands to hunt and they are usually over run with non residence, because they can not find a place to hunt without paying; stricter rules and guidelines for hunting and fishing.

ID: 2262

There are too many farmers and hunting areas charging to hunt people live for the almighty dollar any way they can market. One of these days there won't be any place to hunt except game refuges and production areas.

ID: 2276

In my opinion pay hunting had ruined all forms of hunting in South Dakota. I refuse to pay to do any type of hunting in South Dakota.

ID: 2288

Get ride of the late season deer hunting. The January season is harvesting too many bucks that have lost their antlers. There is plenty of time to get your deer during the regular season. If you don't that's hunting; deer numbers are down!

ID: 2289

I do not hunt ducks or geese anymore. I love to hunt upland birds, but I will not pay the horrible price the land owners charge to hunt pheasants.

ID: 2300

I like ruffed grouse but don't see many in the Black Hills.

ID: 2311

I believe that the residents of South Dakota are fortunate to live in a state where natural resource and outdoor recreation are of the highest priority. All that you have to do is live in some of your neighboring states to realize how lucky we are. I few up in Iowa and have seen first hand what can happen when natural resources become second priority behind other land uses.

ID: 2321

There are very few pheasants in SE corner of the state. Have plenty of private land to hunt not worth the drive. Drive thru the country side in winter time, blank bare fields for miles. Not enough to cover to hide a mouse, more cover needed birds don't hide well in plowed fields. Hunt once a year with a friend that has pen raised birds left over birds that were not sold to pay hunt preserves. That is what it has come to (thanks for the hunting preserves). Have friends that duck and goose hunt the Springfield area. No permanent blinds more regulations sounds like that area has also dried up because of more rules and regulations. Apply for a permit for a permanent blind? I believe you had

a question about difficulty duck and goose hunting. That would be part of it. Maybe when the walleyes start biting on the west end of Lewis and Clark Lake the 1st of June and there are seventy five boats in that small area. We should apply for a sport to pull plugs just like setting up a duck and goose blind. Also what is the status of walleye in Francis Case. Seems like 14 7/8 inches fish are the normal. Will this get better or worse you should not need a pocket full of cash and a law degree to know if you can shoot a pheasant in the ditch. Same goes for ducks and geese regulations. Any comments would be great.

ID: 2322

We need places to hunt.

ID: 2325

Unfortunately hunting is getting very expensive also to many other rent or buy up good ground to hunt. It is becoming a money person event this is very unfortunate.

ID: 2330

Allowing the hunting of partridge is an example of poor game bird management. Please eliminate the partridge season in most counties until a huntable populations exists, many years ago it was very common to see partridge and harvest a few. However, seeing partridge in the field these days is very uncommon. I realize that I am not a wildlife biologist, but I do know that it is not reasonable to allow hunters to harvest the few remaining partridge. Please save this resource and eliminate the season.

ID: 2331

We do friends/family pheasant hunting twice a year with friends and family from all over the US. We hunt on family land and usually limit out.

ID: 2339

I apologize for being certain on which county I hunted in. I think it was Walworth but I don't want to say much if I'm not positive. It was my grandparent's farm.

ID: 2340

It is difficult getting permission to hunt on private land. Many landowners you have to pay to hunt in which they over charge, big time. Anyone that charges to hunt wildlife is totally wrong in my opinion. We already pay too much in license and other fees. Wildlife was put on earth for all not for some to sell.

ID: 2344

Recently I have not hunted ducks or geese because of the decline in numbers in the area. The migration is much shorter and the birds don't stick around, and this can't be helped, but I do feel that the number of birds and the cover they are provided with. I think the reduced cover in fields and tiling of wetland is making a large impact on numbers. I believe the season needs to be shortened and allowed birds to rebound.

ID: 2350

I think it would make hunting more enjoyable to the young if they had more private land to hunt. Keep the sport alive by making more land to hunt for everyone without paying to hunt somebody's land.

ID: 2351

Why do you need a pheasant license to hunt geese! All the extra licenses required makes it really expensive.

ID: 2356

I did a lot of hunting when I was in my youth, as of late I am very turned off by all the pay for hunting.

ID: 2369

My job has kept me from doing a lot of hunting in the past. Hunting has been a big disappointment out of state hunters may bring a lot of revenue but they ruin the sport. Some laws also disable as well as seniors, I really enjoy the wildlife and outdoors and hope I can get more hunting in.

ID: 2376

This year was really good for pheasants. I've enjoyed my hunting experiences. I'm also impressed with the quality of the public hunting areas.

ID: 2377

Do you need a question of last year's gas price? Last year's gas price had some limit on the amount of travel to public land other yeast would spend at least 25% of hunt time at the Missouri River areas, that are world class public hunting areas. As far as my private land, need more late season grasses and CRP to nest more birds all cattail sloughs are flooded and have limited good spring nest area. Any good info on CRP or improving nest hatch areas?

ID: 2379

As far as pheasant hunting goes in South Dakota if your paying to hunt on a preserve or know someone to hunt on private land, all that's out there is the road way. The walk in areas I've been in were poor at best, very few if any birds. I love hunting but I have found here that it's designed more for out of state hunters; people invite hunters for the dollars. I guess if you have the land, why not? It's not very fun for a guy like me.

ID: 2388

I rarely hunt pheasants anymore because all of the lands I use to have access to, you have to pay to get on. I don't think its right that you have to pay to go hunting. Goose and duck I don't like the taste of them so I don't hunt them anymore. My hunting consists of deer (rifle and archery) and black powder, some small game rabbits mostly. Love to fish when I have to start paying to do it I will quit that too.

ID: 2392

Save a tree this is a waste of resources, not to mention my time.

ID: 2398

I only pheasant hunt in Charles Mix don't have what they had in the 50's and 60's.

ID: 2404

I haven't hunted pheasants for about 10 years for lack of birds in our area. I am not interested in hunting ducks or geese. In hard times like this surveys waste a lot of tax payer hard earned money.

ID: 2408

Life is good in South Dakota.

ID: 2413

Town residents are getting more than their limits on pheasants.

ID: 2419

I enjoy hunting, however, however it is not a priority in my life, I normally get a sportsman's license just in case I decide to go.

ID: 2422

Moved to Rapid City in 2006 from East River, not much waterfowl hunting out here, wish there were more but big game is great.

ID: 2429

I have been hunting in South Dakota my whole life. I'm not that old, but things have changed a lot. I used to hunt waterfowl about every weekend. It used to be relatively easy getting permission now is about impossible. I do not like to see hunting going the direction it's going (pay). I just hope my kids will get to enjoy it before everything is commercialized.

ID: 2441

Don't get me wrong duck and goose hunting is fun but it really is a strong as was when I was younger and could take the cold and wet better.

ID: 2456

I used to hunting pheasant on farm land in McCook 20 miles W of Sioux Falls. There used to be many pheasants, due to over tillage and over hunting, the population seems very low compared to the past. It might be that the land is surrounded by walk in on 2 and is pounded every other day.

ID: 2461

I have not done much hunting in the last few years because of age and bad knees. I spend more time fishing now, but will hunt as I am able.

ID: 2467

I want to keep small bore center fire rifle for prairie turkey! Safety issues concerning this subject are almost 100% the fault of out of state hunters including any other species they come to hunt. Duck hunting steel okay for any hunting near water lead should be okay for open fields, wheat, corn fall stubble, etc; geese also. Steel stopped my waterfowl hunting.

ID: 2479

I think it is getting increasingly more difficult to find private land to hunt on. I don't like the rudeness sometimes I encounter asking permission to hunt private land. Additionally the public land gets abused people leave garbage or the dead game carcasses lying in plain sight for example in the parking areas. I would like to see more public land in northern/central South Dakota.

ID: 2481

Each year I have one friend from Eagle River, Wisconsin and one friend from Thompson Fall, Montana that hunt pheasants with me for 10 days. All three of us are between 58-65 years of age. We enjoy walking and hunting but age limits the amount of time we are able to hunt each day that way. So we also enjoy what we call road hunting like section lines. Seems each year there is more comments from landowners that they would like to stop that type of hunting. Our group sure hopes that doesn't happen.

ID: 2483

I believe that ranches/farmer that accept government subsidies should be forced into letting hunters hunt the land that their tax money went to subsidies. A list should be published publicly listing those ranchers/farmers and addresses.

ID: 2488

Is this survey really worth the money spent on postage and the time of these conducting it? I understand the importance of such surveys, but now that the state is experiencing a budget crisis, I have to question whether this is really worth it.

ID: 2492

Randomly selected every year?

ID: 2499

Public land is improving across South Dakota but there is room for improvement. Possibly more game production land, and more walk in left by landowners with some standing crop to hunt. Road hunting is a touchy subject, but I think it is our right to hunt the right of ways.

ID: 2509

Corn harvest was late thus making it difficult for pheasant hunting and I'm going to school also so I didn't have as much time to hunt.

ID: 2526

Liberalize the hunting of deer; hunting should be at least a week longer in the early season. More doe should be harvested. Make it less expensive for out of state hunters, so maybe they could harvest at least three female deer in a season.

ID: 2529

Special thanks to the Parks and Wildlife Department for keeping this states hunting grounds some of the best in our nation looking forward to the next 2009-2010 hunting season.

ID: 2531

If the land for public hunting was not pastured by cattle many bird habitat would be better for it.

ID: 2537

There are no pheasants.

ID: 2545

We did not feel there was a larger number of pheasants this year; many of our fellow hunters feel the same.

ID: 2548

Pheasant hunting is a pain anymore; I quit some money paid out to farmers for walk in areas look ridiculously wasted. I'll probably just bow hunt for deer and forget the rest.

ID: 2560

I thin GF&P does a very good job. I am very pleased with the fishing, hunting and the parks. Keep up the good work.

ID: 2572

Have noticed less cover for pheasants; more birds living closer to occupied homes/people.

ID: 2581

I applaud your efforts to continue providing more public land to hunt. Given the difficulty and expense to get on private land, the pressure continues to increase on public land.

ID: 2585

Spending most time fishing and big game hunting otherwise, I'm sure I would do more bird hunting.

ID: 2600

I haven't hunted for a number of years.

ID: 2615

Your pheasant population is down to the reason the seasons are getting to long the birds do not repopulate that quick and also the prices of everything are getting out of control would love to take my 5 kids would love to go but they are also disappointed on how the state is so greedy trying to get revenue instead or worrying about the birds and the youth hunters.

ID: 2617

I'm not a big waterfowl hunter, mainly because we do not like to eat duck or goose. I do think it's important to preserve and protect the traditions of hunting waterfowl and others forms so that our kids can hunt if they want to.

ID: 2627

I love to hunt, spend time outdoors and be with my family, but I have had trouble getting on land that is productive with birds. If I had knowledge of where I could go duck hunting, pheasant and goose hunting I sure would appreciate it and it would help to improve the hunting experience.

ID: 2633

This was the first year I hunted a public shooting area, specifically the Knodel land between Menno and Freeman. Wow was I impressed! Nice layout and well maintained, good job!

ID: 2635

I feel GF&P does a good job with the resource. Walk in areas make it easier to find a place to hunt especially for deer and antelope. I would like to see walk in expanded if possible.

ID: 2643

We need more public land.

ID: 2644

I found it necessary to purchase land and develop habitat in order for myself and family to have a place to hunt fee free.

ID: 2649

My number one recreation is shore fishing. I would like somehow to get better access to shore fishing on Lake Oahe but that probably impossible with all the land being privately owned but I know there are a lot of good banks to fish from between Pierre and Mobridge just not much access to them.

ID: 2651

I am not a big hunter so this survey to me was unimportant, you should be sending it to someone else.

ID: 2658

Consider allowing non-resident pheasant hunters an option for 1 or 3 day licenses after they have purchased their initial license.

ID: 2663

I wish South Dakota residents could hunt more days during the resident season, and I wish the out of state hunters would have to hunt their own state, or pay a lot more to hunt here.

ID: 2668

The GF&P do a great job. The key to your future is to have land available without having to pay on the private reserves. Eventually only out of state hunters will be able to enjoy hunting pheasants. Not healthy for the sport!

ID: 2674

I only hunt pheasants when my children want to otherwise it is not a priority. Same goes for ducks and geese.

ID: 2676

All of my pheasant hunting takes place on private land owned by friends. Don't hunt public land or ask landowners I don't know anymore. Preserve owners should not be allowed to take their out of state clients on public land to hunt. Turkey hunting is my favorite sport. No rifle hunting should be allowed in this sport.

ID: 2677

I think the state needs to move the duck season in Charles Mix County we see very few ducks until Thanksgiving when it get good the season is closed. If there is a way to keep the season open with the goose season tell me how we can change this.

ID: 2679

Lots of birds out there and please extend the season to January 31st.

ID: 2696

It would be nice to see some Game Wardens up here an opening deer day. I walk and hunt! I don't drive by shoot like everyone else. The road around my section is like a NASCAR track with guns sticking out windows and shooting off the roads. Guys like me don't get a chance at the trophies and I am tired of it! I've complained before to no avail. If you can't do your job then give me the badge and I will!

ID: 2697

I thought there were many birds this season but not a significant number of roosters, the hen population was abundant.

ID: 2698

I have not hunted pheasants since the 90's when the population of birds was extremely low. I don't care for the taste of duck or goose. I elk and deer hunt and enjoy hunting gofers.

ID: 2703

Lots of birds this year, I really only pheasant hunt when the opportunity presents itself. I spend way more time archery hunting. Pheasant hunting just begs for a buddy or a dog.

ID: 2704

I loved duck and pheasant hunting when I was younger but pheasant hunting has went to commercial landowners want to profit to much. Public shooting areas are great, but over hunted. Waterfowl production areas produce lots of ducks and the South Dakota hunter still has a chance to have a good time if their not to many hunters in your slough. The last time I went to a pond it seemed like their was a hunter behind every cattail!

ID: 2715

I missed both my chances. I shot two times at each bird better get out the clay pigeons!

ID: 2717

I have not really done a lot of goose hunting since the early season started. It's too easy to shoot young geese and is not much of a challenge. But then I guess no one wants to have a challenge as a sportsman anymore, or as a hunter.

ID: 2724

I enjoy all these birds to hunt by my passion is deer and fishing. Pheasant, duck and goose hunting usually coincides with bow hunting and rifle deer so that why I don't do more bird hunting.

ID: 2728

You can go pheasant hunting if you have enough money to pay hunt.

ID: 2732

I do not goose hunt mainly because its hard to find time.

ID: 2736

Like I said in the survey, I have hunted in South Dakota for 35 years and 7 years before I could shoot legally with my dad. My brother bought an 80 acre farm by Irene SD and that is the only place we pheasant hunt. I have given up on road hunting due to the harassment of landowners so we

hunt the farm. It's really sad because I have 3 sons the ages of 21, 19, and 17 and that's all they hunt. Duck hunting is our favorite because of the public shooting areas. It's hard to get permission for ducks from landowners, it seems like everyone has a nephew or a cousin or brother-in-law that hunts. They see the license plate, Minnehaha County, and you are done. Our deer hunting is the same way. We use to hunt Marshall County but have given up due to harassment from landowners. I love hunting and you guys do a wonderful job with your resources. Unfortunately it is going to big money. I guess I am fine with it. I have had many wonderful hunts. My kids have not tasted what we had and I think that's really sad.

ID: 2738

I have a bad back and leg problems and can only walk a short distance before I have to sit down. If it wasn't for my disabled hunter permit I wouldn't be able to hunt at all. Thanks for having this program, keep up the good work. Being able to ride a 4-wheeler part time I was able to take a cow elk in Custer Park a couple year's ago.

ID: 2754

I would probably hunt pheasant if there were still places to go. It's too bad the landowners charge so much.

ID: 2758

I think you need to make waterfowl licenses easier for people out of state. It is ridiculous they have to apply for a license.

ID: 2759

The best thing to improve hunter/landowner relations and increase hunter access would be to ban road hunting without the permission of the adjoining landowner. Too many hunters road hunt without even trying to approach landowners. Road hunting is state sponsored poaching.

ID: 2764

I feel we need alfalfa incorporated into our GFP & CRP grounds. If given the opportunity, ducks and pheasants will nest in alfalfa because of the aroma it gives off. Predators cannot smell a nesting hen, even within a few feet of her. I believe the reason Eastern South Dakota's pheasant numbers are down is that alfalfa producers cut earlier (in the bud) and every 28 days after and that doesn't give the birds enough time to lay and hatch.

ID: 2779

It's a thrill of watching your dog grow from a puppy to an adult and learning to find and retrieve a pheasant.

ID: 2780

2008 was not a good year for me. I fractured my heel which did not allow me to get out until late December.

ID: 2787

If it was not for my good friend I would not hunt due to the fact the I will not pay to hunt. It has become too costly.

ID: 2792

It is very important for me to hunt pheasant and I enjoy it. As for ducks and geese, someday I might try it.

ID: 2809

Don't let the Legislature raise the hunting licenses for residents. Too pay for county roads we all ready have a \$4 dollar a wheel tax for Stanley County residents that each of us pay to keep the roads up. It's not the hunters that are damaging the roads that much, it's the big trucks that are causing most of the damage and those trucks only pay the same as I do on my pick for 4 wheels. Therefore I feel it is just another way to tax town residents.

ID: 2815

Walk in areas are barren and do not hold game. Put that money in areas that are worth hunting!

ID: 2821

Quit messing with the goose season in unit 2! No wonder why people lose interest! The extended pheasant season was nice.

ID: 2822

I have lived in SD all of my life. I have hunted ducks and geese for many years but not the last 8 years.

ID: 2830

After years of accumulating preference points, I received an elk tag 6 years ago. It was a fabulous experience. Last year I forgot to send in for Custer Elk and I understand that I lose all my preference points. I don't think that is right! I hunt deer in Charles Mix County. Tags are hard to get. In the years I get a tag the hunting is great and the hunting pressure is low. In other counties tags are too easy to get and the hunting pressure is too high. It is dangerous and not much fun!

ID: 2832

The reason I don't hunt ducks or geese is steel shot. I hate it! Tungsten steel is good but too expensive.

ID: 2844

I think landowners are charging way too much to hunt, do they claim it as money on their taxes?

ID: 2854

The survey came in my name but my husband filled it out. I do not get a hunting license every year and do participate with him. Our daughters have also pheasant and duck hunted with us.

ID: 2857

Pheasant hunting was the most fun I have had outside of an amusement park.

ID: 2858

Why am always randomly selected to do surveys? There has to be young hunters that go more often.

ID: 2863

I hope I helped with your survey. I haven't been bird hunting since the late 1990's.

ID: 2864

Purchase more public land, expand walk in areas, longer resident only seasons, both for kids and adults. A 2 week resident only season would be great. Residents need too have greater access to public areas and a longer resident only season to get more residents and their kids more involved in hunting. The common man of South Dakota and his kids are being squeezed out. It's becoming a rich man's only sport. We need a lot more resident kids hunting and fishing. We have world class hunting here and the residents are pushed out by out of state money (hunters). Help us residents, please.

ID: 2872

I just want to thank you for the privilege of hunting in South Dakota. You guys are doing a great job, keep up the good work.

ID: 2877

I love to hunt but work gets in the way. There is great hunting in South Dakota.

ID: 2882

I truly think pheasant season is too long into the winter months.

ID: 2890

Pheasants were hard to hunt because of all the standing corn. They were hard to flush out.

ID: 2902

Thank you, South Dakota for continuing to make it possible for the average person to have a place to hunt.

ID: 2907

Game, Fish & Parks needs to work with landowners to provide better pheasant hunting at a lower cost.

ID: 2910

Please no more.

ID: 2911

You need to keep hunting land available for future generations.

ID: 2917

I do not agree with paid hunting of any kind. I don't know how GFP can control any game populations with the paid hunting the way it is.

ID: 2922

As I grow older, I have found that I spend less time hunting than in years past. Personally, I would like too spend more, but kids and grandkids take up most of my time! Hopefully that will change. I also feel that we have great hunting and available areas to hunt.

ID: 2925

I quit pheasant hunting about 12 years ago. Mostly because I lost the enjoyment for it but also because I had no place to hunt and it cost too much to go. That includes my time off work, fuel costs, food, housing and paying someone to hunt on their property. Although there were plenty of pheasants there was hardly any on state lands and one never knew where the CRP lands were. Road hunting just got to be too technical with all the rules that got added each year. In my personal opinion pheasant hunting and most other hunting sports are becoming a well to do persons sport. It has become too commercialized.

ID: 2941

The local landowner need to let more people hunt their land. Fathers and grandfathers would like to do more hunting with each other but there are not very many landowners that will let you hunt on their land.

ID: 2949

The years I didn't pheasant hunt in South Dakota was because I was a resident of Iowa. The out of state license cost too much and was only 10 days worth. My opinion is if you're going to charge that much it should be the whole season not just 10 days.

ID: 2951

I'm getting more and more into bird hunting each year. I might hunt turkeys next year.

ID: 2955

I think that the pheasant season runs too long and too many birds get shot and that affects our overall population in Clay County. I also feel that shooting preserves in the area have a season that starts way too early in the year. I feel that they should start the same time other hunters start and end when the season ends. They should not have their own season.

ID: 2961

We need additional access to public hunting for waterfowl. Many water areas are simply too difficult to access because of distance to the water or excessive cover. In some cases it's the water depth. Please consider leasing land a long lakes and sloughs for waterfowl hunting, not just for upland game. Do not let out of state hunters take over the waterfowl hunting in SD like they have for pheasant. You need to decrease the out of state hunters.

ID: 2969

This was my first year hunting in SD. I look forward to many years of hunting in the future.

ID: 2972

I grew up on a farm but moved to town I now wish I had stayed on the farm as it's hard to find a small piece of land. I with the government would help a person get a country home.

ID: 2979

I would like to see lifetime licenses as an option in South Dakota!

ID: 2982

I'm not a fan of steel shot, I lost too many birds.

ID: 2983

I'm not a duck or goose hunter. I'm not one to freeze to shoot something I not eat. I like just watching them. It makes no sense to hunt or fish if you don't use the food.

ID: 2988

Never take away road hunting from the residents of SD. Most of the private land is being used by out of state hunters. Residents can't afford to enjoy hunting with family as much as we used too.

ID: 2994

Any rancher that receives government should not be allowed to charge to hunt or get money because the big game ate their crops. Also, cut back on out of state licenses. Charge \$5000 for outfitter's licenses—which any landowner or leaser who charges to hunt. Quit selling our wildlife to the rich out of state hunters. Also anyone who runs a pay to hunt operation should have to report it on their taxes and their land should be changed from Ag to industrial. Use the increased revenue to buy more public land so the average person and family can hunt and not just the rich ones.

ID: 2996

I would hunt waterfowl more if there was more waterfowl in our area.

Appendix D. Report sent to survey participants.

October 2009

Dear South Dakota Resident Hunter,

Earlier this year you participated in one of two surveys. One survey was sent to small game hunters who had also purchased the Migratory Bird Certification (waterfowl hunter survey) and the other survey was sent to small game hunters who had NOT purchased the Migratory Bird Certification (bird hunter survey). The overall purpose of the two surveys was to evaluate the future of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. These surveys explored factors that may contribute to a further decline in waterfowl hunting and explored the potential to attract pheasant hunters to participate in waterfowl hunting.

Results: We received a very good response from our hunters (nearly 75%). These two surveys provided a wealth of useful information about resident pheasant, duck and goose hunters in South Dakota (far too much to adequately summarize here). Two detailed reports were produced plus an overall summary report and are available on the GFP web-site. These three reports:

South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008
South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008
The Future of Waterfowl Hunting Summary Report–2008

can be found under the ‘Opinion Surveys’ subheading on the Game, Fish and Parks web page at:

<http://www.sdgifp.info/Publications/Index.htm>

Thanks again for your help with this study. Commissioners and GFP staff will receive a copy of the complete report including all the comments I received from hunters related to this survey. I can be reached by e-mail at:

Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us

Sincerely,
Larry Gigliotti
Game, Fish & Parks